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A First Geography of
South Africa



Photo. L. Pedrotti, Bulawayo.

THE MAIN FALL, ZAMBEZI

A
FIRST GEOGRAPHY OF
SOUTH AFRICA,

BY

A. MOIR ROBB, M.A.

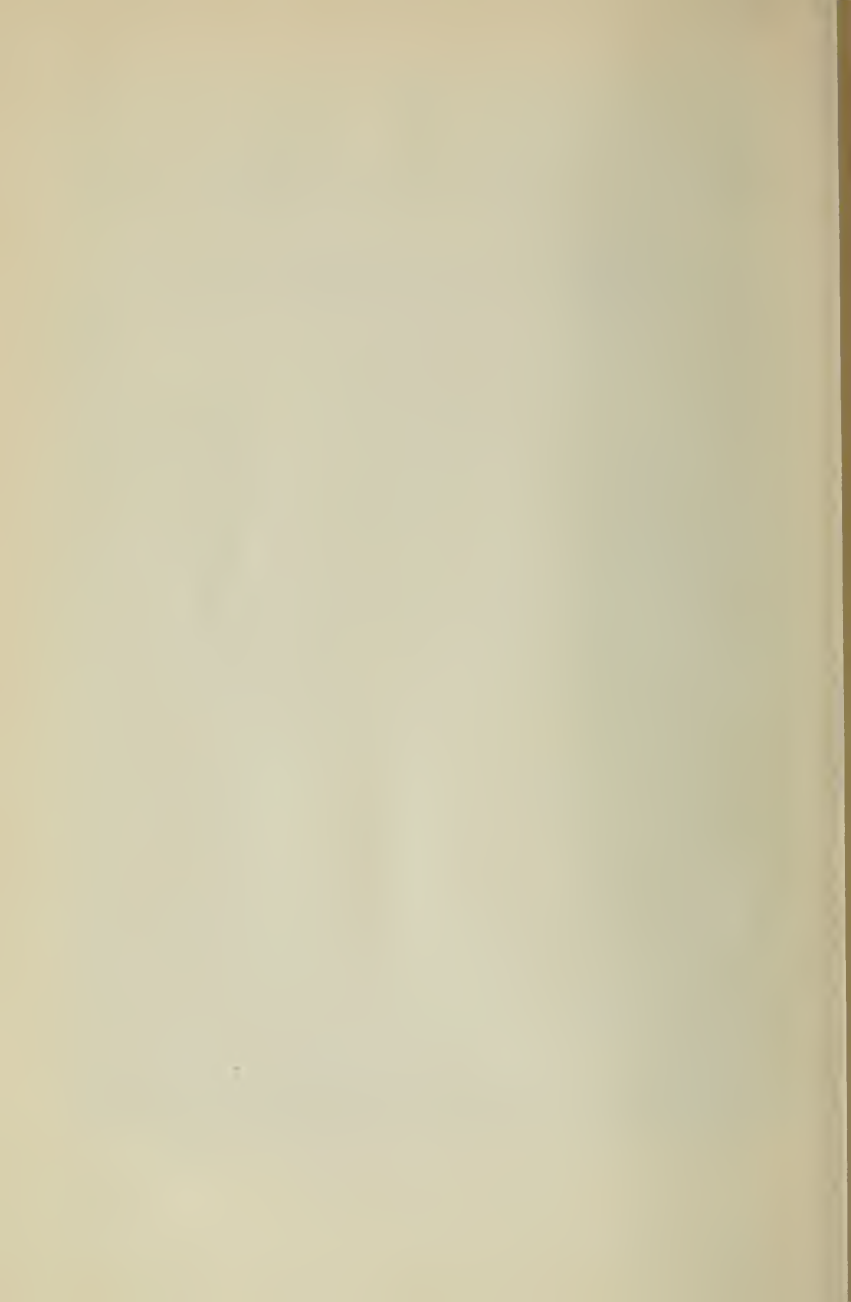
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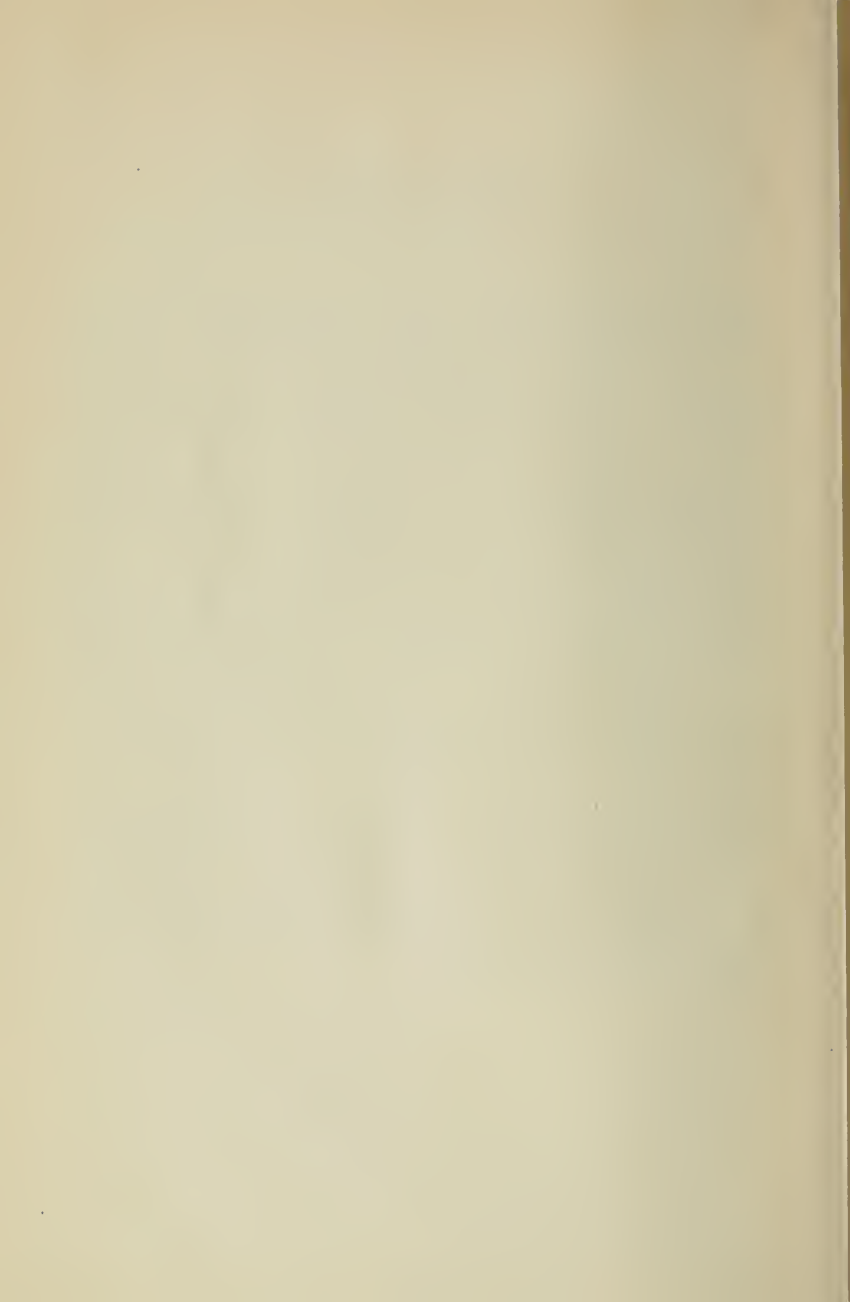
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FOREWORD

This book of South African Geography has been written for children of Standards III or IV. It meets the requirements for Standard III laid down in the new Geography Syllabus of the Transvaal Education Department; and it will also be found suitable for the work of Standard IV in the Cape Province and Natal. Naturally, there has been no attempt to make the book a complete treatise on the geography of the Union of South Africa, its neighbours and dependencies; but it is hoped that it will be found to cover the ground with sufficient fullness for beginners. I must acknowledge my indebtedness to the Publicity Department of the South African Railways for permission to reproduce some of their beautiful photographs, and especially to Mr. J. Smith, the photographer of that department, for kind advice in making a selection. To friends, who have generously supplied me with views for reproduction, I have to express also my warmest thanks; their names are duly mentioned with the illustrations. My thanks, too, are due to the newspapers of this country for much valuable information.

A. M. R.



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A FIRST GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTH AFRICA

1

TRAVELLERS AND TRADE

Southern Africa was, for long, a land without a story; and there is a reason for this. South from the Mediterranean Sea lies the Sahara; and for hundreds of years this desert was like a barrier dividing the north of Africa from the rest of the continent. But in course of time this barrier was crossed by the help of the camel.

About five hundred years ago people in Europe knew very little about the world outside their own continent; of Southern Africa they knew nothing. For hundreds of years the timid mariners of southern and western Europe had been content to sail the landlocked Mediterranean, and to coast along the Atlantic edge of Europe. However, in course of time, they got to know about the mariner's compass. Yet, even with the compass, it was many years before the seafaring Europeans of the west and south lost their dread of the vast, trackless ocean with its fabled monsters. But the Crusades had this great effect. They helped to open up trade with the East.

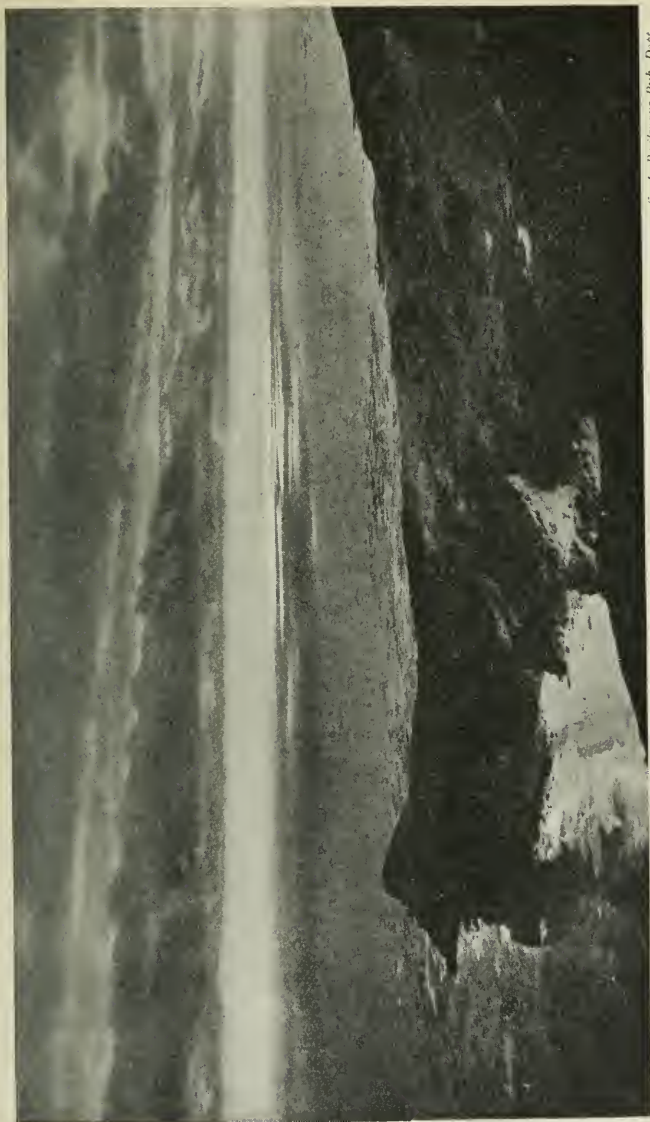
Europe found it could produce nothing like the fine silk

of China, the calico of India, the muslin of Mosul. Kings sent to the golden East for priceless gems to decorate their crowns. Doctors learned from the Arabs, and got their drugs from Arabia and India. The East Indies sent their strange spices: cloves, nutmegs, pepper, cinnamon; rich perfumes and artists' colours came up the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf in Arab ships. The Arab caravans brought them overland to the great markets.

Alexandria was the chief centre of this Eastern trade. In this old city, Christian West met Mohammedan East; for thither the nations of Europe sent their merchants to buy luxuries of far-off Asia. Now, the Mohammedans had all this Eastern traffic in their hands; and they demanded such high prices for spices and other goods that their sultans and caliphs were very rich and powerful and able to keep up large armies. These armies they used against the Christians; and general fighting between Cross and Crescent had been going on for years along the Mediterranean Sea.

The Christians of Spain and Portugal especially had a hard time battling against the Moors, a Mohammedan nation from the north of Africa. The Moors invaded these two countries; and it took many years of fierce fighting to drive them back into Africa.

When the Portuguese drove the Moors out of Portugal they did not rest content. Soon they fitted out a fleet and sailed for the north of Africa to attack the Moors in their own country. After sharp fighting the Portuguese captured Ceuta, a city richer, on account of its trade with the East, even than Venice. Then came the sacking of the town; and the rough soldiers of Portugal found themselves masters of a golden city. They were amazed at its wealth; at its rich palaces with lovely garden-courtyards, carved



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Sunset—Cape of Good Hope

marble balconies, beautiful furniture, priceless carpets, snow-white linen, and silken sheets. Cellars and warehouses were found to be stored with great jars of wine and oil and spices. Best of all, in their eyes, were the wonderful treasures they found of gold, silver, and precious jewels.

Now the leading spirit in this adventure was Prince Henry, one of the sons of King John of Portugal. After the capture of Ceuta he began to understand that it was the wealth of the Mohammedans that made them strong, and he knew that this wealth was got from traffic with the East. But the Moors were too strong for the Portuguese and were able to bar their way to India.

Prince Henry still sought to carry out his great idea of getting to India, the land of gold and gems, silks and spices, perfumes and ivory. So he withdrew from his father's court and went to live quietly at Cape St. Vincent. There he spent whole days and nights studying and thinking. He made friends with travellers from strange lands; he employed makers of maps and charts; he gathered round him skilled seamen; and he started a school for sailors.

Prince Henry did not live to see his dream come true. In the year 1460 he died; but in that same year the Cape Verde Islands were discovered by one of his captains. However, the work of exploration did not come to an end with Prince Henry's death. The Portuguese kept on trying, and in the year 1471 they crossed the Equator.

Finally, in 1486, Bartholomew Diaz set forth with two small ships. He crossed the Equator and went on, landing at various places, the last, the little bay now called Lüderitz Bay. After leaving this he was blown away from the land by a violent storm; and when he found the coast again he had rounded the Cape. So to him belongs the

honour of being the first white man to sail the Southern Seas.

Eastwards he sailed, and stopped at a bend in the coast-line now called Algoa Bay. Then he sailed on as far as the mouth of a river, either the Kowie or the Fish. Here at last his crew, weary of voyaging, made him turn back. He little knew how near he was to making Prince Henry's dream come true. As they passed the great Cape on their return, they gave it the name of "Stormy"; but, when they reached home, the King of Portugal called it the "Cape of Good Hope", because it gave hopes that India would be discovered at last. And thus it was, that, looking for a sea-way to India, the Portuguese found Southern Africa.

In 1497 another expedition was sent out from Portugal under a bold and daring leader, Vasco da Gama. He coasted round the southern end of Africa into the Indian Ocean. So pleased was he with the green coast-land, along which he sailed northward, that on Christmas Day he gave it the name of Natal. At one place where he landed he got a pilot who helped him to reach India. In this way Southern Africa was found to be the blunt end of a huge triangle, jutting far out into the southern seas, and separating the Atlantic Ocean from the Indian Ocean.

2

THE LAND SURFACE

South Africa may be said to consist of four parts. First, there is a border of fairly flat country, the Coastal Belt, running round the edge of the land. If we leave this region and travel inland, we have to climb a great series of wide Steps, Slopes, or Terraces, rising higher and higher as we go inland. When we reach the top of the staircase, we come out on to the Highlands of South Africa.

Now, if we travel farther over these grassy highlands into the heart of the country, we gradually get down into a lower-lying region, which consists of the great expanse of dry lands we call the Kalahari Desert. So the Highlands of South Africa form the broad rim of a huge basin.

South Africa then is built after this fashion:

Look at the map showing the surface features, and you will be able to understand how the land rises upwards from the sea in steps. The Coastal Belt is formed of land up to about 1000 or 1500 feet above sea-level. Then the Terraces are up to 4000 feet. The Highlands are everywhere at a height of 4000 feet or more above the sea; and the parts of the Highlands above 6000 feet are coloured black. The Central Kalahari is less than 4000 feet.

Look at the map again and note where the Terraces have been broken down by the four great rivers of Southern Africa, namely, the Cunene, the Orange, the Limpopo, and the Zambezi.

South Africa is the blunted southern end of a triangle, jutting out into lonely seas. Cape Town, near the tip, is about 4700 miles from the southern end of South America and about the same distance from the nearest corner of Australia. On the west side of South Africa break the waves of the South Atlantic Ocean; and the east side is washed by the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Now, the ocean consists of restless waters, which keep flowing in certain directions. These "currents" may be warm or cold, and so they affect the lands along whose shores they flow. Up from the Antarctic Seas comes a cold current that flows northwards along the west coast of our land. Southwards from the Equator flows a warm current along our eastern and southern coasts. The cold current makes the west coast a belt of desert, a region of hunger and thirst.

But the warm Mozambique current helps to make the east and south coasts green and fertile regions, fit to be the homes of men.

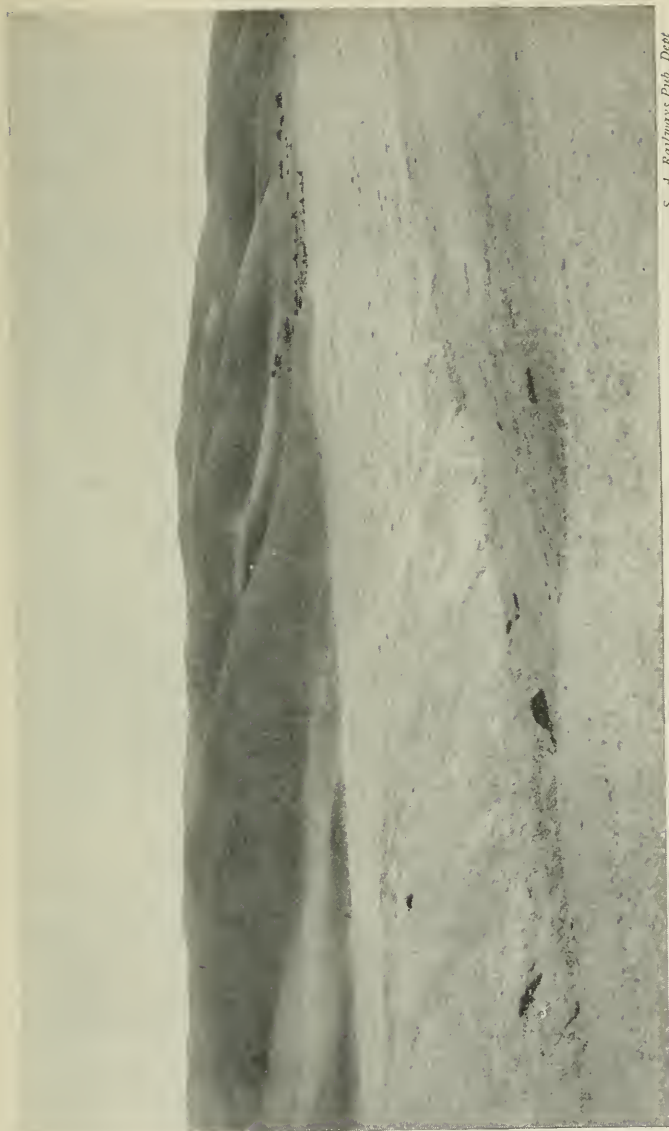
And now we must try to get a better idea of the four great divisions of the surface of South Africa: the Coastal Belt, the Slopes and Terraces, the Highland Plains, and the Kalahari region.

The Coastal Belt

This hem of our land is not of the same breadth all the way round. Look at the map, and you will see that the belt is narrow in the west and in the south. At places along the south coast, it is less than 10 miles wide. The map also shows how the belt broadens on the east side, especially between the Limpopo and the Zambezi, its greatest width being about 250 miles.

Let us travel round the coast, beginning on the north of South-West Africa, because it was there that Europeans first landed in South Africa. The coastal lands here get very little rain and are not of the kind that would invite sailors to land. Along the shore is a dreary, barren stretch of sand and rock. Close behind this lies a broad belt of sand-hills. Behind these again is desert land about 50 miles wide, a lonely sandy waste with here and there a stony kopje. From the Cunene River to farther south than the Orange River, the coastal belt is nearly all of the same kind.

Gradually, however, the nature of this coastal belt changes. It begins to lose its bare appearance and to become greener, for it gets more rain. South of Saint Helena Bay, it becomes very fertile and contains wheat-lands and vineyards. Rounding the Cape Peninsula, the coast turns eastwards and the coastal belt becomes more inviting, although it narrows



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Sand Dunes near Swakopmund

down until at places it is only a few miles wide. Inland an almost continuous line of mountains follows the shore. On the sides of these mountains are to be found some of the few forests in South Africa. Forests thrive here because this central part of the south coast gets some rain nearly all the year round.

Farther on, the coast turns towards the north-east. The coastal belt is still narrow in Kaffirland. Here, the hill-sides come close to the sea, and their green slopes are scored by many streams; for this south-east coast of South Africa gets a good supply of rain. In Natal, the coast belt broadens out, and is crossed by many streams. Here, too, heat and plentiful rain allow the growing of the sugar-cane, of tea, coffee, mealies, and cotton; also of bananas, pine-apples, and other kinds of fruit. Vasco da Gama was very greatly pleased when he saw this green land, and gave it its present name. From Natal northwards to the Zambezi, the coast belt gradually widens out. In Zululand it makes good sugar-land. In Portuguese East Africa it contains good cattle pasture; and sugar, maize, Kaffir corn, rice, and sisal hemp are grown; but marshes abound and fever is common. The early Portuguese explorers formed settlements here; but many of them died on account of the malarial fever.

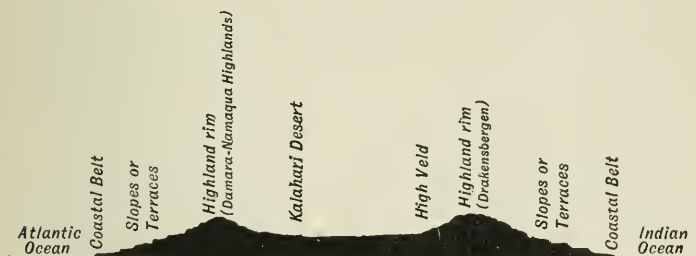
So you see there is a great difference between the west and the east coast regions. The west is nearly all dry desert; the east is a green fertile belt with a good rainfall.

3

SLOPES, HIGHLANDS, AND KALAHARI

Slopes and Terraces

The slopes and terraces are the parts of the land surface of South Africa leading from the coastal belt to the highlands. In the west, they are bare and stony, and covered with tufts of coarse grass; and few farmers are to be found. The eastern slopes have a fertile soil bearing rich grass, and in some places trees. Many farmers have made their homes on them. As we travel up over these slopes, we keep coming to what look like mountains, but are only



the edge of the next higher terrace. These have only one steep side, that facing the sea. (See illustration.)

The terrace region in the Cape Province is different. Here ranges of true mountains, running east and west, are separated by the "Karroos", wide, barren stretches of flat, half-desert land, on which are reared large flocks of sheep and goats. Nearer the sea many fertile valleys and smiling farms lie between these long lines of mountains.

The slopes and mountains kept back the opening up of South Africa for many years. Their seaward sides were like walls built across the roads that the early explorers

tried to find into the heart of the country. But after much searching, passes were found through them, and roads were made to allow of traffic between the highlands and the coast. The most important of these passes now are the Hex River Pass in Cape Colony, Van Reenan's Pass from Natal into the Orange Free State, Laing's Nek from Natal into the Transvaal, and Komati Poort from the Portuguese country into the Transvaal. Through these "gates", railways as well as ordinary roads now lead inland from the coast.

The South African Highland Regions

In South Africa there are four regions of land over 4000 feet above sea-level:

(1) The Damara-Namaqua Highlands, in the south-west, whose surface consists of rocky mountains, rolling grassy uplands, and deep valley ravines. On the east, these highlands run down into the Kalahari.

(2) The South-Eastern Highlands run through the centre of the Cape Province from west to east, varying from about 100 to over 150 miles in width. These cover about one-third of the Cape of Good Hope. From their eastern end, they turn north-eastwards and take in the Orange Free State, Basutoland, and the southern part of the Transvaal, their greatest width here being some 400 miles.

Their highest parts lie along the southern and eastern edges.

In the Cape Province the ridge runs from west to east along the Nieuveld, the Sneeuw Bergen, the Zuur Bergen, and the Stormbergen. In Basutoland, the Drakensbergen rise in Giant's Castle, Cathkin Peak, and Mount of Sources to over 10,000 feet. The Maluti Mountains in Basutoland form a parallel range to the west of the Drakensbergen. In

the Transvaal the Drakensbergen rise in Mount Anderson to 7490 feet above sea-level.

From the mountain rim, the land slopes gradually towards the rolling grass-land, the "Veld". The southern portion, taking in the northern plains of the Cape of Good Hope and the southern part of the Orange Free State, gets much less rain than the northern part, and it is often named the "Northern Karoo", a good country for sheep and goats, which feed on the salt bush that grows abundantly. The Transvaal High Veld and the northern part of the Orange Free State are good grass-lands with a fair rainfall. Here cattle, horses, and sheep are reared; and the chief crop is maize.

When the Voortrekkers from Cape Colony came to the High Veld, they had to live by hunting for some time, until their flocks and herds increased; and so big game was gradually killed or driven away, and only the springbok is left.

(3) The Rhodesian Highlands begin on the borders of the Kalahari and extend in a north-easterly direction for about 600 miles. Their greatest width is about 200 miles. The country slopes to the Zambezi, Limpopo, Pungwe, and Sabi Rivers, and there are many ranges of hills. Most of the white settlers in Southern Rhodesia live on this plateau, because it is the most healthy part for Europeans. Game is plentiful except near towns; cattle thrive; maize and tobacco grow well.

(4) The Congo-Zambezi Divide is a vast upland stretch of country, mostly flat or gently rolling. The grassy plains are often covered with trees, either scattered or in clumps. Here and there shallow valleys cross the plains. The dividing ground between the two rivers and their tributaries is low, but it is clearly marked, and is the route followed by traders who wish to avoid swampy land.

The Kalahari

This great expanse of dry lands is roughly about 500 miles wide from west to east, and the same distance from north to south. The eastern part is inhabited by Bechuana tribes, their kraals and towns being found mainly towards the Transvaal border. This part gets a fair amount of rain, and has good grazing for cattle. In parts it is well wooded; but the trees are thin and twisted, and of little use as timber. The Kalahari is mostly flat land, crossed at places by ranges of hills. Westwards it becomes much more dry and desert-like, and it is inhabited by wandering Bushmen and Kaffirs who live by hunting. There is a great want of water, except in the north in the Lake Ngami basin, and in the east where streams drain into the Limpopo. The dry river-beds of the south and west very rarely hold water. Hence the Kalahari has sometimes been called the "Great Thirst Land".

4

THE RIVERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (I)

The life of the people inhabiting any country is influenced to a great extent by the presence or absence of rivers. In Asia, Europe, and America the rivers are very useful. The water can be drawn off to irrigate the land; or the rivers are deep and wide enough to allow boats to travel up and down with passengers and goods. Again, the strong flow of water in the rivers is used to turn great wheels that drive machinery for sawing timber, grinding corn, or generating electricity. But South Africa gets little work from its rivers.

South Africa, as a whole, has a climate of two seasons,

the wet and the dry; and so rivers that are in full flood in the wet season may in the dry be only bare river beds, with perhaps occasional pools. In the "Dry Lands", such as the Kalahari, the north-west of Cape Colony, and in the desert coastal belt of the South-West Protectorate, running water is seldom seen except in seasons of very heavy rainfall.



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A Dry River-bed

Most of our rivers start from highland regions, and, on their downward course, are broken into rapids and falls at the edges of the slopes and terraces; so they are of little use for navigation. Further, the flooded streams have scooped out deep river-beds, and so the farmers are unable to draw off the water to irrigate their crops. In the south-east, where most rain falls, the rivers are never dry; but, from their homes in the mountains, they rush downwards at a great rate, and this makes it difficult to dam them up

to get water for irrigation purposes. But these south-eastern rivers, although harnessed and made to work at only a few places, may yet some day be very useful in driving machinery.

The rivers of South Africa, as well as the terraces and mountains, have a great deal to do with the history of the country. Their not being navigable kept back the opening up of the country for long years. In North America, for instance, the big rivers were easy, welcome roads that led the explorers into the heart of the country. In this way they made better progress than if they had had to travel by land. In South Africa the rivers were of no use to travellers and settlers, for the reasons already given. You may travel from Cape Town northwards as far as Lake Ngami and the Zambesi before you see natives using canoes or boats of any kind. Again, none of the rivers have wide mouths or gateways that would invite sailors to enter and view the land behind the shore-line. And so the early Portuguese and Dutch navigators were not tempted to turn aside from their journeys and explore this unknown land, round which they had to sail on their way to the Golden East. The Portuguese passed the Cape shores and made settlements far round in the Indian Ocean; and many years went by before the Dutch made a settlement at Table Bay.

The want of good navigable rivers makes railways and ordinary roads all the more necessary in this country.

5

THE RIVERS OF SOUTH AFRICA (II)

Let us now take the rivers from west to east:

The Cunene River forms part of the northern boundary between South-West Africa and Portuguese West Africa. It rises in the Angola Highlands and is about 600 miles long.



Dr Wm. Macdonald.

The Orange River (Namaqualand)



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Modder River, Orange Free State

Its upper course is through beautiful country; but, like most other South African rivers, it has to make its way through broken slopes before it reaches the coastal belt, and in doing so it forms waterfalls.

Excepting the Cunene and the Orange Rivers, all the rivers of South-West Africa flow only after rain has fallen away back on the highlands and slopes. Since the highlands are not very far from the sea, the rivers are of no great length. But water generally flows underground and can be got often by digging down for it. In the northern part of the Protectorate the beds of the rivers are generally well wooded with big acacia trees. The larger rivers are the Swakop, Omaruru, Ugab, Huab, and Hoarusib. At many places, travelling is found to be easiest along the dry river-beds.

The Orange River was so named after the royal house of Holland. It begins high up in the Drakensbergen near the Mount of Sources. Its head-stream is the Senku. At first it flows in a south-westerly direction between the Drakensbergen and the Maluti Mountains, being joined by many streams on its way down the beautiful highland valleys. At Aliwal North, the Orange leaves its highland home and sets out on its long journey through the great dry lands that it has to cross before it reaches the Atlantic. Farther west it is joined by the Caledon River, which also comes from the mountains of Basutoland. The Caledon passes through a rich grain district before it joins the Orange. From this point the Orange turns and flows in a north-westerly and then westerly direction, forming, for part of its course, the boundary between the Orange Free State and the Cape of Good Hope. From the Cape Highlands it gets some streams, which, however, do not bring much water. The chief of these is the Hartebeest.

The greatest feeder in the middle course of the Orange River is the Vaal, which rises on the western side of the Transvaal Drakensbergen. The Vaal is the longest feeder; but it brings down little water in the dry season. Farther along its course the Orange falls 400 feet, at the Aughrabies Falls. For about 16 miles the river is obstructed by numerous ledges and small islands, and plunges down between high cliffs. Nearer the sea it is joined by the dry river-bed of the Molopo and other dry river-beds, and makes its way seawards in deep, rocky gorges between granite mountains, and enters the Atlantic among sandhills. As its shallow mouth is barred by sand, ships are unable to enter it, and so the river is useless for navigation. If it had not been for this, the Orange might have played a great part in the opening up of South Africa. However, it is being made to work at some places, where the water can be drawn off to irrigate crops.

Between the Orange River and the Cape, the coast rivers have short courses. (Why?) The Buffel's and Green Rivers have water only in their head-streams as a rule. They dry up before reaching the sea. The largest stream is the Olifants River, which enters the sea to the north of St. Helena Bay. Into this bay flows the Berg River. Each of these rivers has a good supply of water.

On the south coast the rivers become more numerous towards the east; and water flows in them all the year round. The Breede River, on which the first Cape irrigation works were made, drains the south-west corner of the Cape Province. Then come the Gouritz, the Gamtoos, and the Sunday River, along whose courses irrigation is being more and more practised. The Great Fish River, after a very winding course, reaches the sea at the corner of South Africa where the coast-line swings round to the north-

east. This river was in early days a boundary, although a useless one, between the white settler and the Kaffirs. Next comes the Great Kei River, which was for a time the eastern boundary of Cape Colony.

The Transkei or Kaffirland is watered by many rivers that plunge over falls and rush through gorges to the sea. The most beautiful of these is the St. John's River or Umzimvubu. In its lower course it flows between steep cliffs amidst scenery of great beauty. There is a sand bar at the mouth, which small vessels can sometimes cross at high tide.

Owing to plentiful rainfall, the rivers of Natal have a copious supply of water, and in the rainy summer season are often in flood. From the south the chief rivers are Umzimkulu, Umkomaas, Umlazi, Umgeni, Umvoti. They all flow eastwards to the sea. Then comes the great Tugela River, with its feeder, the Buffalo. All the longer rivers of Natal have their courses broken by falls and rapids at the edges of the slopes and terraces. At these waterfalls, the scenery is beautiful.

From Natal northwards, the waters no longer hurry along between rocky banks, but travel more slowly over fairly level country. From the south comes the Usutu with its feeder, the Pongola; the Umfolosi flows eastwards from Swaziland. From the north, after a very winding course, comes the Komati with its feeders, the Crocodile, the Sabie, and the Nuanetsi.

The Limpopo reaches the sea to the north of Delagoa Bay. Its many source-streams rise in the Transvaal High Veld on the northern slopes of the Witwatersrand. The chief is the Crocodile River. They flow northwards through poorts in the Magaliesbergen, and they continue northwards in bushy valleys until the Rhodesian Highlands turn

the Limpopo eastwards with a big bend. From the point where it ceases to be the northern boundary of the Transvaal, it flows southwards into the Indian Ocean. In the wet season, it may be a raging flood; in the dry season it is sometimes reduced to a string of green pools. At places its course is broken by falls. It enters the sea through a



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The Limpopo

gap in the line of sandhills that follow the coast. The largest feeder of the Limpopo is the Olifants River, in whose bushy valley-lands many natives live.

The Sabi River rises in the eastern part of the Rhodesian Highlands. It first flows southwards through mountainous country, and then eastwards through the low-lying bushy coastal belt to the sea. The Pungwe also has its source in the Rhodesian Highlands. It flows eastwards and enters the sea near Beira.

6

ANIMAL LIFE (I)

Wild animals gave the first Dutch settlers more trouble than we can now think. In those early days, the first hunters and travellers, who were bold enough to travel into the heart of the country, were rewarded with a wonderful sight. South Africa was a real "hunter's paradise". For a long time Bushmen and Hottentots were the only enemies of the larger animals; but later came the white hunters and farmers; and "big game" animals were gradually driven northwards, until now they are rarely found south of the Limpopo River, except in special "game reserves". The many places that get their names from animals tell how rich the country must have been in animal life.

A great part of Southern Africa consists of half-desert grass-lands like the Kalahari, good grass-lands like the veld, or grassland with scattered trees and shrubs. In this kind of country large numbers of antelopes are to be found. Once they roamed the country in millions, but now several kinds have been killed off. The most famous of these antelopes is the springbok.

Elands are the largest South African antelopes. They live in herds and like open plains with scattered trees. The lordly eland is a very fine animal, about as heavy as an ox, but it can move with easy grace. Koodoos, with their long twisted horns, prefer bush country, and so their speed is not great. The gemsbok inhabits the south-west desert places, and is able to go a long time without water. It has very long powerful horns, with which it can beat off a lion. The sable or black antelope is now rarely found. It lives in the bush veld.

Springbok are found in the high veld and other open

grass country. Many farmers keep small herds of them. They can leap into the air to a great height, hence their name. The reitbok and the waterbuck seek water or damp ground where reeds grow thickly. The sturdy klipspringer and the rhebok are very active climbers, and are found in hilly and mountainous places.

The towering giraffe is well fitted for life in dry, open, "savannah" lands. Its long neck and large eyes enable it to see enemies at great distances, and enable it to feed on the leaves and twigs on the top of acacias and other trees. It lives in the sandy plains of the dry Kalahari, can go for a long time without water, and can run very fast. The ostrich, that great running bird, is still found wild in the dry plains of the north-west. As with the giraffe, a long neck and long legs enable it to get a view all round. It is further like the giraffe in being able to go for days without water, to run fast, and to kick hard.

Some smaller animals of the savannah lands live in "dug-outs". The funny little meer-cats dig out burrows and live in small parties. The aard-vark or ant-bear lives in a burrow, and is very shy, coming out only at night. The springhare has short front legs fitted for digging; but it has very long hind legs and a long tail, which are used in helping it to take long bounds when escaping from enemies. It comes out only at night, and eats the farmers' crops.

7

ANIMAL LIFE (II)

The elephants of the Addo Bush have nearly all been killed, as they destroyed the crops; but some still exist in the Knysna Forest and in game reserves. On the east coast north of the Limpopo River, elephants are to be found about

the Pungwe River and in some parts of Rhodesia. Lions are still fairly numerous in Rhodesia, the northern Kalahari, and the north of the Transvaal. The rhinoceros is rarely found south of the Zambezi River. The clumsy hippopotamus may still be seen about the mouth of the Orange River. Numbers of them live in the upper waters of the



Mountain Zebra

Zambezi, and in the lower waters of the Transvaal and Zululand rivers.

The buffalo inhabits the marshes of the east coast, the swampy reaches of the Zambezi, and the Congo-Zambezi divide. The spotted leopard, wrongly called "tiger", is found in bush or in rocky, hilly country. Savage baboons find shelter in holes among rocks; they lay waste fields and gardens.

The jackal is common all over South Africa. It hunts in packs and is a real pest to farmers, for it kills lambs and sheep. The Cape wild dog is a great hunter. It is one of the swiftest animals alive, and can pull down anything from a goat to an eland.

The striped zebra is found in the wilder mountain regions of the Cape and Damaraland, in Zululand, and in the grass-covered plains to the north of the Limpopo. Monkeys are to be found among rocks, or in bush and trees, living on wild fruits and berries, and in winter-time on roots.

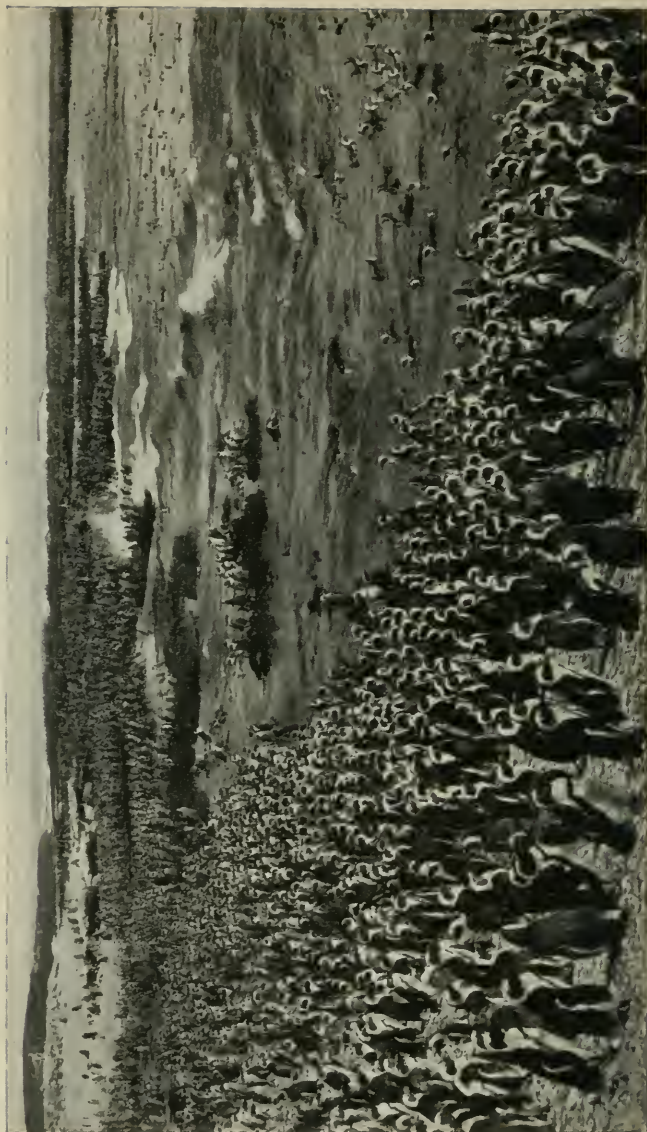
Bird Life

Many kinds of birds make their homes in the veld. The long-legged secretary-bird stalks about looking for snakes, lizards, and insects. Another long-legged bird, the crane, is to be found walking about in stately fashion near vleis, rivers, and dams. Partridges, guinea-fowl, korhaan, the large pauw, wild ducks and geese are to be found in fair numbers, and are good eating. The veld also has its scavengers in vultures or aasvogels, and ravens.

Some birds are very useful. The locust birds follow the swarms of locusts, and feed on the young. The little wag-tail or kwik-stertje destroys harmful insects. The sugar-bird and the woodpecker are helpful in the same way. The owl feeds on rats, mice, frogs, lizards, and insects of various kinds.

Of harmful birds the most destructive is the starling or spreeuw, which greatly damages the fruit crops, especially figs. The mouse-birds devour apricots, plums, and peaches. Eagles prey on lambs and kids. The jackal-bird and the sparrow-hawk steal hens and ducks.

The farmer counts the weaver-birds amongst his enemies, for they eat up ripening grain in large quantities. The tit



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Penguins, Halifax Island, near Lüderitz Bay

makes a strong, neat nest of downy seeds or sheep's wool. It works the lot into a substance like thick felt, which can keep out rain. The hammerkop makes a huge nest of sticks cemented with mud. This nest is so strong that a man can stand on it without breaking it. The sun-birds, or zuikerbekjes, build wonderful pear-shaped nests of grass and fibres bound with cobwebs. These they hang from the branches of trees. The swallows also are quite clever at building mud nests.

Round the coast of South Africa there is a wonderful variety of birds. The rose-pink flamingo, wild ducks, and geese are to be seen. The Cape Government has made bird-refuges at Dassen Island and the islands of Saldanha Bay, where penguins, duikers, and cormorants nest in peace. On Halifax Island there are penguins in thousands.

Boys and girls would be surprised to learn how rich this country is in bird-life.

8

ANIMAL LIFE (III)

Insects, Reptiles, Fishes

Many are the insects to be found in South Africa, and some of them do a great deal of mischief; the tsetse fly spreads the fatal disease called "fly sickness", and causes the death of horses and cattle.

Locusts are another great pest. They breed in the Kalahari, laying their eggs in the ground. Heat and a little rain are sufficient to hatch the eggs; and out come countless crawling, hopping creatures, called in this country "voetgangers". These gather in swarms and head usually in an easterly direction. After about six weeks they get

wings and can fly. As they journey they devour everything green in their way.

White ants are another common insect pest. They devour almost anything except metals. In houses they do great damage, eating books, leather, clothing, and other things. Another kind of ant, a small dark one, is very fond of sweet things, such as sugar and jam, and so gives housewives a good deal of trouble. The "soldier ant" builds the large conical nests, called "ant-hills", that dot the veld in all directions in many places.

The mosquito is found in the warmer parts of the country. It breeds in marshy places and wherever there is standing water. Mosquitoes of a certain kind sting people and infect them with malarial fever. This malaria is common in the warmer parts of Natal, in the Transvaal bush veld, in Portuguese East Africa, and in Rhodesia, except in the highland regions.

Of course, not all insects are harmful. Our honey bees and some other insects carry pollen from one plant to another, and so help to make fertile seed.

Many kinds of reptiles exist in Southern Africa. The crocodile is still found in the Tugela, Limpopo, and Zambezi. Lizards are of many sorts. The largest is the iguana, or likkewaan, which is generally found near rivers or among rocks, and is a great stealer of eggs. Lizards delight to sun themselves on rocks. Snakes are plentiful in certain parts, and many of them are poisonous. In parts of Natal and the Transvaal is to be found the python, about 20 feet long, which crushes its prey in its folds and then swallows it. The mambas are found in low-lying bushy country in Natal and elsewhere, and are very deadly animals. The bites of the puff-adder, the yellow cobra, and the ringhals are also very poisonous.

The great whale is still to be found in South African waters. Seals are to be got along the coast on certain rocks and islands; and small shipments of seal skins are sent to Europe. Also the deadly shark haunts our seas. Many of the more common smaller fish are of great value as food; such are the snoek, kabeljauw, Cape salmon, klip fish, stock fish, rock cod, and sole.

9

THE NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA (I)

The Bushmen

Very likely, when Bartholomew Diaz went ashore on the west coast to set up his first cross in this country, he was closely watched by some little people, who took great care to keep themselves hidden from the white strangers. When he came as far as the south coast, he saw South African natives for the first time, and then they were hastily driving large herds of cattle inland away from the sea.

The little people were Bushmen. The natives, whom Diaz saw driving their cattle inland, were Hottentots. When Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape, sailed up northwards into the Indian Ocean, and went ashore on the east coast, he found a much finer race of men, tall and black in colour, who were willing to barter food, ivory, and gold. These were Bantus.

So far as we really know, the little Bushmen were the first human beings to live in South Africa. They were all very tiny, the tallest man being not more than five feet in height. The women in most cases were only about four feet. The little people were of a light yellowish-brown colour, and their hair was dotted in short tufts all over their heads.



Bushman Paintings from Cave Walls

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They did not trouble to build huts, but lived in holes in the ground or in caves amongst rocks. Sometimes they made a resting-place in the centre of a small circle of bushes,



Cape Colony Bushman

forming a covering roof with the skins of wild animals. Their beds were of grass.

They spent their days in hunting; for they kept no herds of cattle and they grew no crops. Better hunters never lived. They could travel long distances without stopping to rest.

Their chief weapons in hunting or fighting were bows and arrows. The arrows were made of reeds, and were pointed with sharp pieces of bone or stone. The arrow-heads were coated with a deadly poison, so that men or animals struck by them died in a short time.

Besides game, they ate the roots and berries of wild plants. They ate also honey, lizards, locusts, grasshoppers, grass seeds, and ants' "eggs", and made a strong drink out of honey. The dwellers by the seashore lived on shell-fish and the smaller fish left in pools among the rocks at low tide.

They knew how to make fire by using two fire-sticks. One was pointed; the point was placed in a hollow in the other, and the stick twirled rapidly between the palms of the hands. They wore very little clothing and did not seem to feel either heat or cold much.

For savages, they were very clever artists, and painted, on the walls of the caves where they lived, pictures of men and animals and hunts. Many of these paintings are yet to be seen; and their colours are still unfaded, even though they are some hundreds of years old. The little people were very fond of dancing by moonlight. This they usually did after killing some big animal.

The Hottentots and Bantus took the land that had belonged to the forefathers of the tiny men, and drove the latter into the desert places. Naturally the Bushmen stole the cattle of the newcomers. This led to fierce fighting, and in course of time the little people were hunted down and almost all killed by their stronger enemies.

10

THE NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA (II)

The Hottentots

Though little, these people were taller and better formed than the Bushmen. They were of a yellow colour, with flat noses and thin faces. Little tufts of short hair covered their heads. When Jan van Riebeeck arrived at Cape Town, he found around Table Bay a poor clan of Hottentots who had no cattle and lived on shell-fish and roots. Richer and larger clans of Hottentots, who owned sheep and cattle, visited the Cape later on, and a trade in cattle began.

The Hottentots did not build houses for themselves. They built, instead, light huts. The finished hut looked like a bowl turned down. It was usually in a very dirty state. However, it was the sort of house best



Hottentot

suited for them, as they were always going from place to place with their cattle. Their furniture was simple, being chiefly skins, mats, cooking vessels of clay, and ostrich egg-shells for holding water and milk.

The Hottentots counted their riches, not in money, but in cattle and sheep, and their food was mostly milk and flesh. They kept the milk either in skin bags or in blocks of wood

hollowed out. The ox was used for riding or for carrying burdens. They had dogs too, which were a great help in herding and hunting. Besides using the flesh of oxen and sheep, they fed on game, locusts, wild plants, and fruits. But they did not plough the ground or grow any kind of grain.

The dress of both men and women was made of skins. When cold weather came they wrapped themselves in karosses. Their ornaments were copper trinkets, strings of shells, and any shining objects.

In hunting and fighting, they used bows and arrows, shields, clubs, and small spears. They knew how to smelt iron, but they were too lazy to do much work of this kind. Sometimes spear- and arrow-heads would be made of iron, but usually they were made of bone and horn. Their usual way of cooking meat was to cut it into long strips, which they roasted a little on hot ashes.

They were a careless, thoughtless people. They liked to sleep during the day, and to feast and dance by moonlight. Old people amongst them were treated in a very heartless way; for when men and women were too old to look after themselves, they were left to die of hunger.

As the herds of the Dutch settlers grew in number, more land was needed for grazing, and the Hottentots were driven from the good grass-lands. Further, the Dutch hunted constantly over the hunting-grounds that the Hottentots had looked on as theirs. Another enemy, too, was coming against them. The warlike Bantus were pushing in from the north-east, and they fought the Hottentots who were in their way.

In 1755, a fleet returning from the East brought smallpox among the settlers. The natives caught the deadly disease, and their filthy habits helped to spread the trouble. Thus,

crushed between the white men and the Bantus, and killed off by disease, the Hottentots may be said to have come to an end as a people. There are still tribes of them in South-West Africa.

11

THE NATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA (III)

The Bantus or Kaffirs

When the Hottentots ceased to give trouble, the white settlers, advancing slowly from the south-west, met another native race coming down from the north-east. These called themselves Bantus; the white men called them Kaffirs. Soon the Dutch settlers found them to be stouter enemies by far than the Bushmen or the Hottentots. The colour of the Kaffir may be anything from brown to deep black.

As the Kaffirs spread over the country, the different bands settled down, built villages, and began to grow grain. It was the women who did all the work in the fields, and they also built the huts. The men, when not busy fighting or hunting, looked after the cattle.

Kraals were usually built where a view could be got of the country round about, so that enemies could be seen from afar. The huts were large, round in shape, and well made. They were formed of strong timber frames, the sides being of basket-work, covered with clay. The roof was neatly thatched with reeds or grass.

The Kaffirs dressed in the skins of animals or in squares of cloth large enough to go round the body. In cold weather, they wrapped themselves in karosses. Necklaces were worn, made of the teeth of animals, and other common ornaments were arm-rings of copper and ivory. They took a

great deal of trouble in dressing their thick woolly hair; each tribe had its own fashion.

They had no coins. The ox was their chief form of wealth, and was used in bartering. Also, they kept goats, dogs, and fowls. But the ox led to long and fierce fighting;



Zulu War Dance

for it was to the Kaffir something of great value, and so he often stole cattle from the white settlers, or from some near tribe. The Kaffirs in the south were nearly always at war. First they fought the Hottentots and then the white men: also they fought among themselves.

They knew how to smelt iron in a simple way; and thus they could make assegai heads, axes, picks, hoes, and other things they needed. Copper was found by them and used

mostly for the making of ornaments such as armlets, leg-rings, beads, and ear-rings. Beautiful fur robes were made by the inland tribes. The women made good clay vessels for cooking purposes, and for holding beer and grain. Baskets, mats, and grass bags were also made by them; and they ground corn in a handmill made of two stones.

So it is easy to understand that the Kaffirs, strong, brave, and warlike, were able to make a good stand against the white men.

When Governor van Plettenberg visited the eastern part of the Colony in 1778, he found a bad state of things. The white settlers had spread over the country towards the east. But the Kaffirs stole the white men's cattle; so commandoes were formed to punish the natives and get back the cattle, and thus trouble began. In order to put an end to fighting, the Governor asked the chiefs of the tribes to meet him. Some of them did so, and it was agreed that the Great Fish River should be the dividing line between the white people and the Kaffirs.

In 1789, the clans of the great Kosa tribe could not agree about a new chief, and so large numbers of them crossed the Fish River again, burning houses, stealing cattle, and killing white people. Thus began the wars between white men and black, which were spread over a hundred years.

12

WHITE, YELLOW, AND BLACK

Europeans

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to know about South Africa; but to them the Cape, with its stormy waters, was only a dangerous bend on the road to India. However,

as they were gold-hunters, they settled at Sofala and other places on the east coast.

The Dutch found the Cape useful as a half-way house on the long road to India. In course of time, the Dutch farmers spread over the country with their herds of cattle, and played a great part in opening up Southern Africa.

Some time after the Dutch settled in South Africa, a number of French Protestants, called Huguenots, left their own country because they were not allowed religious freedom, and came to settle at the Cape. Land was given to them in various places, and they soon made homes for themselves.

Then the British occupied the Cape; and in 1820 many settlers were brought out from Britain. They came to the eastern part of the Cape Colony and landed at Algoa Bay.

After the Crimean War, the Germans hired by Britain to help in the war were sent out to this country, and plots of land were given to them. As these Germans were a hard-working people, they made good settlers. In 1884, the part of the country now known as South-West Africa was occupied by Germany, whose settlers have thus helped to make Southern Africa a white man's country.

Asiatics

The early Dutch settlers tried to train the Hottentots as servants, but found them very lazy and almost useless. About the year 1667, slaves were brought from the East Indies, and they proved to be very suitable. The Malays of the Cape Peninsula are descended from those Asiatic slaves.

About the year 1860, Indians were brought over from Asia to work in the sugar plantations, but they did not come as slaves. They were paid wages, and they were bound to serve for five years. At the end of that time they

could return to India or settle in Natal. The numbers of those who chose to remain in this country became greater every year; and now they and their children are largely employed in the tea and sugar plantations, coal-mines, and railways of Natal. Indians are also to be found in the Transvaal and in the Cape Province, but in very much smaller numbers. Very few Indians are allowed to enter the Orange Free State.

Some Chinese and Japanese are to be found in different parts of the country; but people from China and Japan are not allowed now to come and settle here.

Natives

There are ten millions of natives in Southern Africa, about half that number being in the Union.

So we see that this country is the home of white, yellow, and black people, and that all the races help it by doing work of some kind.

It is well to remember, too, that for every white person in this country there are nearly five natives.

13

CLIMATE AND HEALTH

Most of Southern Africa has only two seasons, a dry winter season which lasts for seven or eight months, and a wet summer season of four or five months. In the south and south-west of the Cape Province, however, there is a difference. There the rain falls in the winter time, and the summer usually is dry and warm. Also along the west coast there is a belt that gets very little rain at any time.

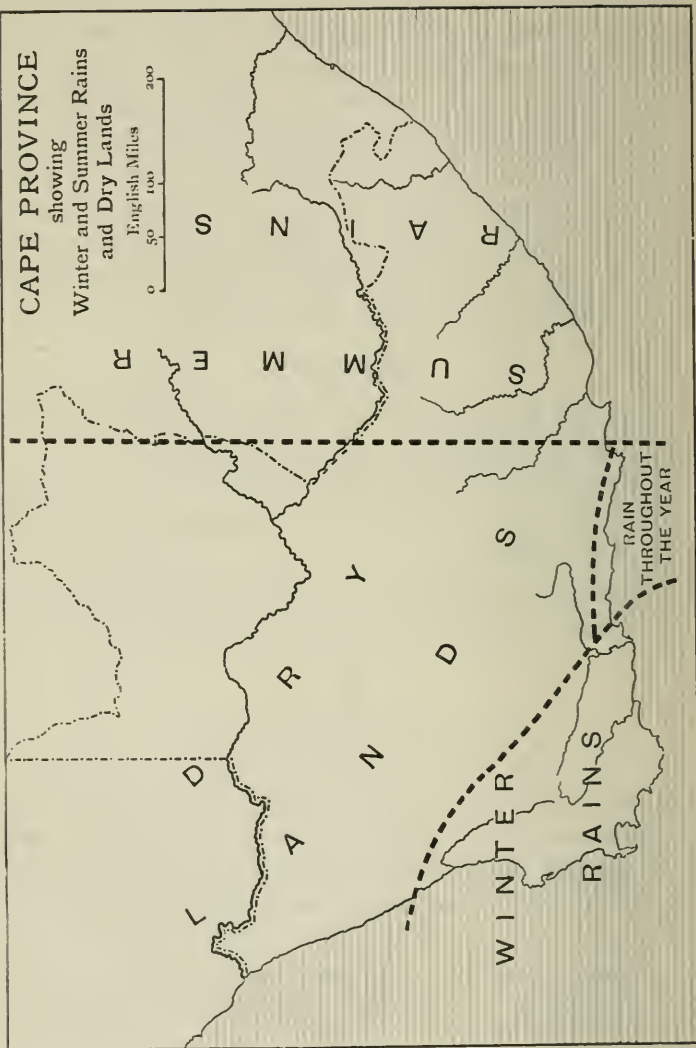
The surrounding seas affect the climate of this country.

showing

Winter and Summer Rains and Dry Lands

English Miles

0 50 100 200



A cold current from the Antarctic regions flows northwards along the west coast, and so places on this coast are cooler and drier than they would otherwise be. Southwards along the east coast and round the south coast flows a warm current from the Equator. This stream of warm water keeps these parts of the coastal belt warm and moist.

The map (p. 40) shows thick dotted lines which, as you see, divide the country into four regions that differ as to amount and time of rainfall. The centre and north of Cape Colony, the western parts of the Orange Free State and of the Transvaal, the eastern part of Bechuanaland and all Rhodesia get a fair amount of rain. The west Kalahari, the north-west of the Cape Province, the Great and Little Karroos, and South-West Africa, except the highlands, are dry lands where very little rain falls. Along the coast of South-West Africa there is a belt of true desert.

The winter rains of the south-west Cape differ according to the places. They are greatest near Cape Town, and least up towards the Orange River. Along part of the south coast, from about George to Port Elizabeth, rain falls in both summer and winter; and the Knysna forest results from this.

The rainfall of the "summer" usually pours down heavily as thunder-showers. In a short time the rivers become raging torrents, that can be crossed only where there is a bridge.

It is very unpleasant to be caught out-of-doors in a South African thunderstorm. The loud pealing thunder and the blinding flashes of lightning are terrifying to most people; and, unless shelter is close at hand, the torrents of rain drench one to the skin in a minute or two. Hailstorms do a great deal of harm to crops, flowers, and fruit, and to the smaller animals. Owing to heat and dryness, dust is easily formed by wagons and animals, especially near

towns where traffic is at all heavy. When the wind is strong, it raises dust-storms which are very unwelcome.

Some parts of South Africa are malarious. The Portuguese country, the Transvaal Low Veld, Rhodesia except



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Part of Knysna Forest

the highlands, and parts of Natal and Zululand are so. Though the sun-heat is very great in some places during the summer months, still it is not oppressive; and if the days are hot, the summer nights are cool and refreshing.

While it is quite warm in the lower Zambezi valley in July, the snow lies on the mountain tops in Basutoland. In Natal, crops are ruined owing to river floods in December,

while the Bushman in the Kalahari is searching for moist, low-lying land where he makes a hole a few feet deep, from the bottom of which he is glad if he can draw up through a reed a few mouthfuls of water.

14

AREAS AND BOUNDARIES

The Cape is the largest province in the Union of South Africa. It is eight times as large as Natal, the smallest province of the Union; two and a half times the size of the Transvaal; and more than five times larger than the Orange Free State.

The Union, including South-West Africa, is six and a half times the size of the British Isles. The Bechuanaland Protectorate and Mozambique are about equal in size, and each is somewhat smaller than Northern Rhodesia. The Cape Province and Northern Rhodesia are each about twice as large as Southern Rhodesia. South-West Africa could almost contain the Cape Province and the Orange Free State together.

The Orange River separates the Cape Province from South-West Africa and from the Orange Free State; and the Nosob and Molopo Rivers part the Cape from the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The Orange Free State lies mostly in the bend between the Orange River and its feeder the Vaal; and you must cross the Caledon River when passing from this province into Basutoland. The Transvaal Province has the Vaal River as its southern boundary, and in the west and north it is girt by the great horse-shoe bend of the Limpopo. The Cunene River divides South-West Africa from Portuguese West Africa, and the mighty Zambezi parts Northern from Southern Rhodesia.

The Drakensbergen walls off Basutoland from Cape Colony and Natal, and the Lebombo Mountains lie between the Transvaal and Portuguese East Africa.

The Cape of Good Hope, the Orange Free State, the Transvaal, and Natal united to form the Union of South Africa in the year 1910; and for the whole Union there is only one Parliament, which meets at Cape Town. South-West Africa was a German colony before the Great War; but at present it is under the control of the Union of South Africa. Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Swaziland are under the protection of Britain. Rhodesia is named after the late Cecil John Rhodes, who played the chief part in opening up the country for white settlers.

15

THE REGIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

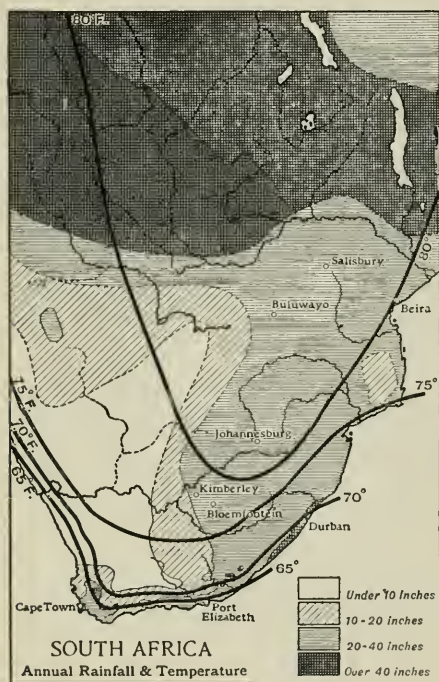
We try to divide up a country into regions, each having its own special scenery, or climate, or plant life. But you must understand that you do not pass suddenly out of one region into another. There is always a broad belt of change between the two, which is partly like the one and partly like the other.

Now let us think of Southern Africa in three regions. First, there is a region of winter rains; then a region which gets summer rains; and third, a dry region where little rain falls at any time, this, however, being either winter or summer rain.

The Winter-rain Region

Winter rains do not fall on much of South Africa. They are confined to a belt running from near Walvis Bay to Mossel Bay, and two small strips farther along the south coast. But the northern part of this belt gets so little rain that it comes into the region of dry lands; and so our winter-rain region is only the south-west corner of the Cape Province. Here the winter rains favour the growing of wheat and grapes, two crops which ripen best with dry summers.

The Summer-rain Region



If we leave out the winter - rain region, the Great Karroo, the Northern Karroo plains, the Kalahari, and the desert coast of the South - West Protectorate, then the rest of Southern Africa falls within the region of summer rains. This region takes in many different kinds of country.

The tropical coast belt which runs northwards from Natal to the Zambezi is a warm region,

where sugar and tea and other products of warm regions can be grown.

The High Veld is made up of bare rolling grass-lands, where cattle and sheep are grazed, and the warm summer rains favour the growing of maize.

The bush country, such as is found in the Northern Transvaal, is park-like, being grass-land with scattered trees, and at places thick bush. Such country abounds in game.

The Dry Lands

Most of the coastal belt of South-West Africa is a sandy waste which gets no rain. The Great Karroo, though certainly dry, can grow salt bush and a little grass on which thousands of sheep and goats thrive. Bushmanland is not an utter desert, but it is much drier than the Great Karroo. It is a region where farmers must always keep wandering with their flocks. In the Kalahari, cattle get fat on Bushman grass and wild melons.

16

SIMILAR REGIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

I. Regions with Winter Rains

To the north of Africa lies the Mediterranean Sea. The lands lying around this sea have winter rains and hot dry summers like the South-West Cape Region. These lands are Tunis, Algeria, and Morocco in Africa; Spain, Italy, and Greece in Europe; and the Holy Land or Palestine in Asia. All these countries can grow wheat and grapes.

The south coast of Australia also falls within a belt of winter rains, and so it too can produce wheat and wine.

II. Regions with Summer Rains

The east coast of Australia gets summer rains. So New South Wales can grow maize; and on its grass-lands are pastured large flocks and herds.

Also the east coast of South America has its rains in summer. Here the basin of the La Plata or Plate River, which is mostly the country called the Argentine Republic, grows maize and rears large numbers of cattle.

III. Dry Lands

In the centre of Australia lies the Great Australian Desert. It is a dry sandy waste, where the want of water prevents the white man from growing crops or rearing cattle and sheep. Like the Kalahari, it is inhabited by only a few wandering natives.

The great Sahara Desert lies in the north of Africa. It is also a vast, dry, sandy, barren country. Only it is much larger than either of the other two we have named. At a few places, a spring of water rises to the surface and forms an "oasis", where dates and grain are grown, and human beings are able to live. Through this great waste pass the Arabs with their caravans of camels. The journey from north to south takes three months.

17

THE CAPE PROVINCE

REGIONS, MOUNTAINS, RIVERS

Regions

The Cape Province forms the blunt southern end of Africa. On the west, south, and east, it is bounded by the

Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. (These two oceans are considered to be separated by a line drawn south from Cape Agulhas.) On the land side, it is bounded by the Orange River, Molopo River, Basutoland, and Natal. It is the largest province in the Union of South Africa, but it is smaller than either South-West Africa or Northern Rhodesia. Regions of Winter Rains, Summer Rains, and Dry Lands, are all to be found in the Cape Province.

(1) *The Winter-rain Region*.—This occupies the south-west corner of the province.

(2) *The Summer-rain Region*.—Draw a line northwards from Algoa Bay to the Orange River; and the land lying to the east of this line is the region of summer rains.

(3) *The South Cape Region of High Walls and Deep Valleys*.—This is a region of change lying between the regions of winter and summer rains. It extends northwards from the sea to the line of the Zwartbergen.

(4) *The Region of Dry Lands*.—This takes in all the parts of the Cape Province that do not fall under one of the other three regions. When rain does fall in the Dry Lands, it is, of course, either winter or summer rain, but too little and uncertain for growing crops.

Mountains and Rivers

In Lesson 2, you learned that Southern Africa can be thought of in four great parts: the Coastal Belt; the Slopes or Terraces; the great, wide rim of the Highland Plains; and the central, lower-lying, dry Kalahari. Mountain ranges run along the broad steps that rise from the Coastal Belt to the Highlands. These mountains seem to hold up the Terraces; and, the farther inland we go, the higher do the mountains become.

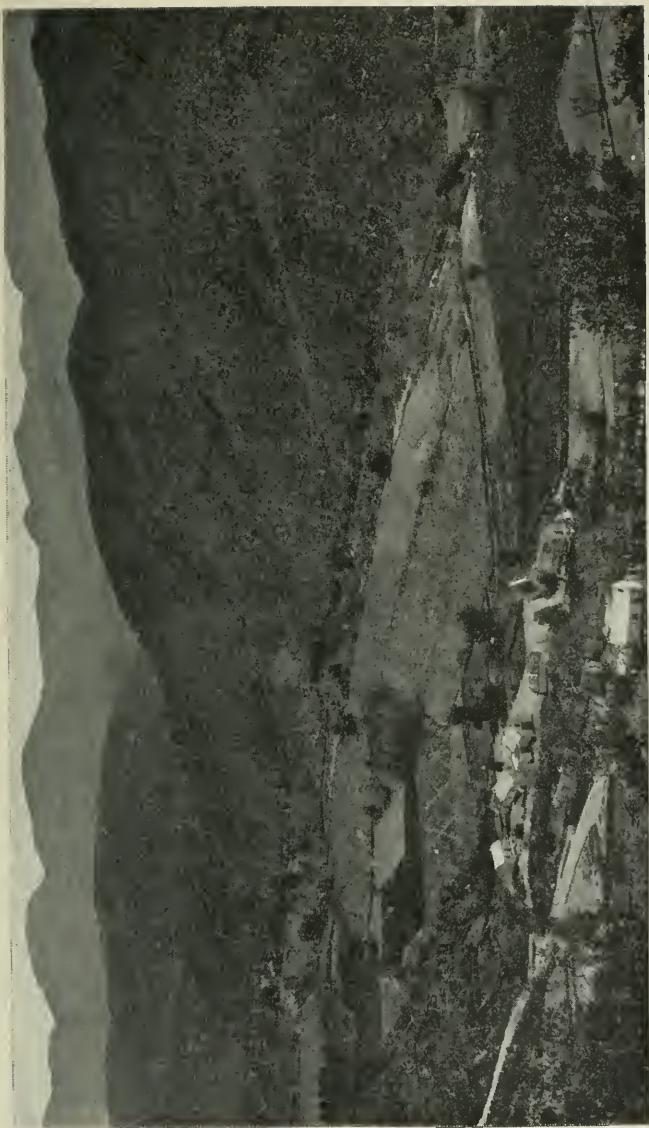
In the Cape Province, the ranges nearly all lie in the same

direction as the nearest coast-line. On the west side, from the Orange River southwards, runs a chain of single or double ridges very much broken up. The chief of these are known as the Vogel Klip, Kamies, Olifants, Cedar, Drakenstein, and Hottentots Holland Mountains. Nearer the sea, lines of low hills run southwards from St. Helena Bay to False Bay. The mountains of the Cape Peninsula are also a north-south range, running from the bold Table Mountain down to the rocky Cape of Good Hope at the entrance to False Bay.

At the south-west corner of the province, the western mountains meet the southern ranges which lie in three great chains. The first chain, the one nearest the south coast, begins with the Zonder Einde Mountains, which lie to the east of Hottentots Holland Mountains. Then follow the Langebergen, the Outeniquas, and the Zitzikamas, which end at Cape St. Francis, not far from Port Elizabeth. The Coastal Belt lies between this chain and the sea.

The second chain, at its western end, commences with the Hex River Mountains, which lie on the northern side of the Breede River Valley, opposite the Drakenstein Range. Then in order come Keeromberg, the Little and the Great Zwartbergen, the Baviaans Kloof Mountains, and the Great Winterhoek Mountains, which end in Cape Recife at the western side of Algoa Bay. The terrace between the first and second chain is named the Little Karroo. It is a much broader "step" than the Coastal Belt.

The third chain also commences in the south-west corner. The Bokkeveld and the Roggeveld Mountains lie to the east of the Olifants Range, and eastwards they are continued by the Nieuwveld Mountains, Sneeuwbergen, Zuurbergen, and Stormbergen. Then the chain turns in a north-easterly direction, along the mighty Drakensbergen. Between the



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The Great Zwartbergen—Cape

second and third chains lies the Great Karroo, a dry plain very much broader than the Little Karroo.

If we climb the third chain of mountains we come out on to the vast Highland Plains. The third chain is the great water-parting of the Cape Province. Most of the rivers from its eastern and southern slopes flow all the year, with floods in the rainy season. The upper courses of the Karroo rivers, however, such as the Gouritz and the Gamtoos, are often only dry beds, except after rains. On the northern drier slopes rise all the feeders on the left bank of the Orange River. The Kraai River brings water to the Orange all through the year; but the farther west the Orange travels the less water it gets from its feeders, such as the Ongars and the Haartebeeste, which are dry beds except in the summer time. The course of the Orange River was described in Lesson 5.

18

THE SOUTH-WEST CAPE (I)

A Corner with a Story: Wheat and Wine

This south-west corner of the Cape Province is quite a region by itself. Not only is it a distinct part of the province—a corner where western mountains meet the southern ranges—but it has also a distinct climate, getting its rain in the winter-time mostly. If you take a map of the Cape Province, and draw on it a line from Clanwilliam on the Olifants River to the sea at its nearest point, and again from Clanwilliam through Robertson on the Breede River down to Cape Agulhas, then the corner to the left of this line is the South-West Cape Region.

It takes in the Berg River valley; the upper half of the Breede River valley; the Tulbagh and Hex River valleys;

part of the mountains to the east of these valleys; the Malmesbury plains; the three-cornered mountain area made up of the Drakenstein, Hottentots Holland Mountains, and Zonder Einde River; and the Cape Peninsula.

This is a region of mountains and valleys, of green slopes and fertile plains. Its winter rains favour crops that ripen best with dry summers; and so, at harvest-time, its plains and valleys are coloured with golden wheat-fields and with



widespread vineyards rich in green and purple. The mountains are rocky and bare; but sheltered kloofs are clothed with bush and tree. Pines and poplars, oaks and gum trees have been planted and thrive in many places. One of the best things Simon van der Stel did was to help the early settlers to plant trees.

On the slopes of Table Mountain grows the graceful silver-leaf tree, which is not to be found elsewhere in the world. The sweet-smelling keurboom with its rosy flowers is also a lovely sight. On the Cedarberg the cedar trees scatter over the steep mountain sides. But the glory of

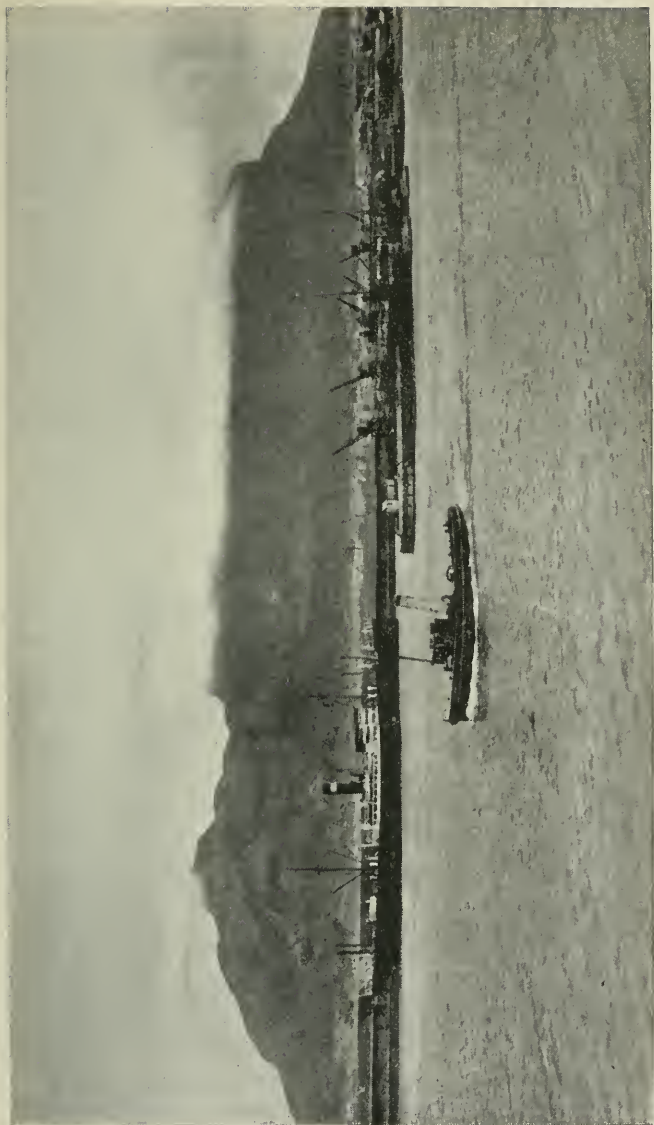
this region is in its wild flowers. The most beautiful blooms deck the mountains and vales: stately white arum lilies with their great green leaves; slender bluebells; heath, white and red; disas, crimson and deep blue. Many of these brightly coloured flowers grow from bulbs or thick roots, in which they store up water to last them during the dry summer. The flower-sellers of Cape Town make its chief street like a garden aglow with glorious colours.

The Cape Peninsula

This stretch of north-south mountains is about 40 miles long, its northern end being Table Mountain. Its width varies from 3 to 11 miles. It is "tied on" to the mainland by the sandy Cape Flats, which reach from Table Bay to False Bay, and its southern half forms the western side of False Bay. Its mountain ridges are bare, and they become lower towards the south end of the Peninsula.

Few cities in the world are more beautifully situated than Cape Town. It sits at the foot of the old grey Table Mountain, and its homes spread up the slopes to the green pines that climb the lower mountain walls. In front of the city lies the sea, curving smoothly with the sandy beach to form the sparkling Table Bay. Before the coming of the white men the shores of the Bay knew only Bushmen, Hottentots, and wild animals. Then, about two hundred and fifty years ago, came Jan van Riebeeck with his Dutch settlers, and, in course of time, the small port grew to be the famous welcome "half-way house" of the south seas. The years passed, and white houses spread along the broad streets, shaded by rows of great trees. As the sails of all nations crowded the Bay, the town became larger and busier. Now, it is a seaport known all over the world.

The Castle stands on the place where Jan van Riebeeck



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Cape Town

built his fort; and the Government Gardens, laid out by Simon van der Stel, are still screened by the grand old oak trees, planted in the days of the Dutch East India Company. Here are the buildings where the Union Parliament meets. In the streets one sees a varied population. Dutch and British have made their homes here; likewise the Malays, descendants of the slaves brought from the East Indies. Kaffirs and Hottentots, Hindus and Arabs are also to be seen.

For nearly a hundred years after Van Riebeeck stepped ashore, the vessels lying in the Bay had no shelter from the strong west winds, and many ships were driven ashore and wrecked. Now the enclosed harbour guards ships from all storms, and the great ocean steamers may lie alongside the jetties in perfect safety. Cape Town, then, is the oldest gateway to South Africa. Here are landed passengers and goods from Europe and other places; and ships load up wool and wine and fruit for far-off lands.

Strung out along the Peninsula are many beautiful places. Rondebosch, Claremont, and Wynberg lie hidden amongst shady trees. On the mountain slopes about 6 miles from Wynberg is Constantia, famous for its wine. The house of Groot Constantia, built in 1685, shows the beauty of the old Dutch houses. Then come Muizenberg and St. James, crowded in the summer season with holiday-makers, who are attracted by the long sweep of sandy beach and the fine sea-bathing to be had in this corner of False Bay. Close by is Kalk Bay, another bathing-place, where fishing-boats land their hauls of stock-fish, snoek, stump-nose, and silver-fish. The mountains dip their feet into the sea, all along the winding coast-line to Simonstown, barely allowing room for road and railway. Simonstown lies in a sheltered corner of False Bay. It has a large dockyard, where British war-ships may find safety from storms or be repaired.

West of Cape Town lies the suburb of Sea Point, on whose rocks the storms break with terrific force. Still farther round the northern end of the Peninsula is Camp's Bay, with its sand and rocks and foaming waves, lying at the foot of a row of mountains known as the "Twelve Apostles".

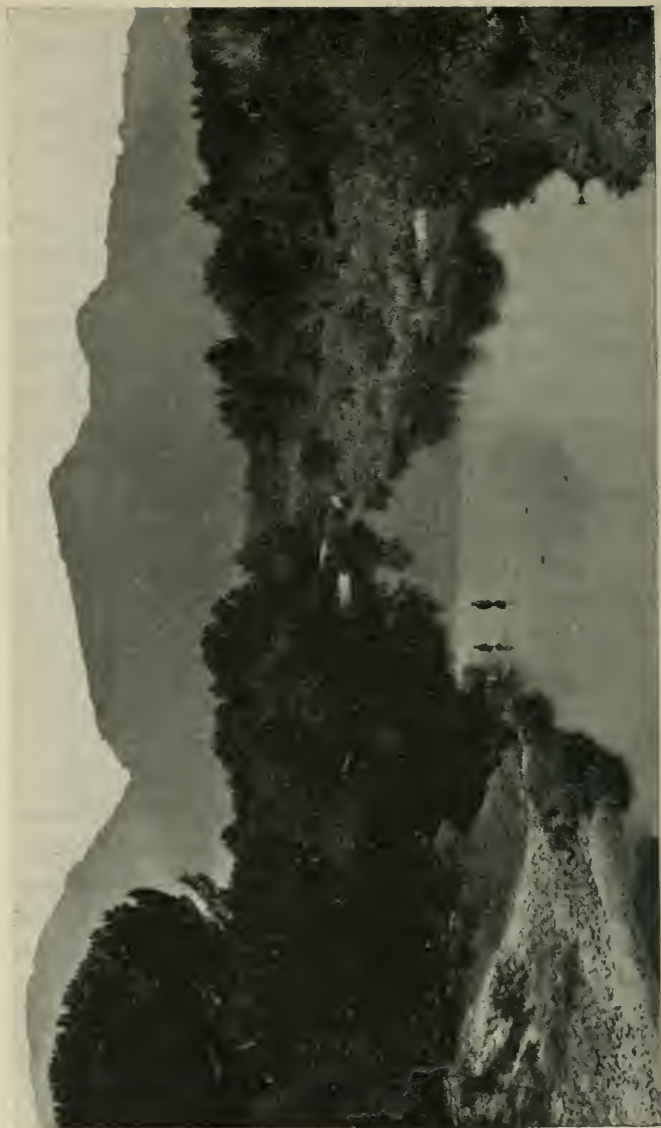
At the south end of the Peninsula, about 17 miles from Simonstown, stands the lonely Cape Point that gives its name to region and province. This huge mass of bare rock, jutting out into the sea, is one of the most famous capes in the world. A lighthouse on it warns sailors to keep at a safe distance. The whole Peninsula is mountainous and carved into rocky bays, except, of course, where it is "tied" on to the mainland. For long years sailors had good cause to fear the dangers of this rugged coast. Many a good ship has been wrecked on its iron rocks. Now, however, from Table Bay to Cape Agulhas, there is an unbroken line of lighthouses shedding their warning rays into the darkness.

19

THE SOUTH-WEST CAPE (II)

The Great Berg River rises in the French Hoek Mountains, part of the Hottentots Holland Mountains. Its valley first runs northwards along with the Drakenstein Range, and then it turns north-west, entering the sea at St. Helena Bay. In this river, about seventy years ago, the last hippopotamus to be seen in this corner of South Africa was killed.

Frenchhoek lies near the source of the Berg River, about the corner where the Drakenstein Mountains join the Hottentots Holland. Here came the Huguenots from France in the year 1688, seeking freedom to worship God



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Berg River—Cape

in their own way. And valuable settlers they were, being skilled hard-working people. The valleys, where large herds of elephants used to roam, are now covered with vineyards and orchards; and amidst beautiful mountain scenery lies this pretty village with its fine old houses and great oak trees.

Farther down the Berg River is Paarl, which runs along the banks of the river for about seven miles. White houses, farms, vineyards, and orchards, are all strung out in a long line. The beautiful valley lies between the Paarl Mountains and the higher Drakenstein Range. The former are crowned by three huge granite rocks, one of which, "the Pearl", gives its name to the town. Paarl is one of the busiest places in this region. Its people make wine, and grow fruit and tobacco; and many of them are employed in building wagons, making jams, washing wool, and quarrying granite.

Northwards along the valley lies Wellington at the foot of the Drakenstein Mountains, where a pass known as Bain's Kloof leads over these mountains from the Berg River into the Breede River valley. This pass has been little used since the railway from Cape Town was carried round the northern end of the Drakenstein Mountains into the Breede valley. Green mountain slopes, vineyards, and fruit farms surround the town, whose houses are buried amidst shady trees. Wine and jam are made, wagons are built, and there are leather, bacon, and fruit-drying factories.

At the northern end of the Drakenstein Mountains is the Tulbagh district. The pretty village takes its name from the popular Governor, Rijk Tulbagh. It lies in the valley of the little Berg River, in a district famous for its beautiful wild flowers. Orchards, vineyards, and mountains gird it round. Its old buildings are of the greatest interest.

Farther down the Berg River valley, nearer the sea, is

Piquetberg, planted on a hill-side in the midst of a fertile district. In the harvest-time, the valley below with its wheat-fields is a sea of waving gold. The rest of the district, more towards the east, is dotted with rich vineyards, orchards, orange groves, and tobacco plantations.

Away to the north lies Clanwilliam on the Olifants River, in the midst of a fertile district of the same name. Not far away are the Cedarbergen; and the Olifants Mountains run with the river at the western side of the valley. We here reach the fringe of the Dry Lands, which stretch away to the north and east. With more rain this district would be very rich. As it is, the lower valley lands produce good crops of wheat, barley, and oats; and up towards the mountains grow grapes, oranges, peaches, and plums.

From St. Helena Bay and the Berg River southwards to False Bay, the land is much flatter, as a whole, than in any other part of this region. You will notice that many places round the coast were named after Saints by the Portuguese, who carried on their voyage not only a ship's compass, but also a saints' calendar. St. Helena Bay, discovered by them, was thus named. It is a wide open bay, with no protection for ships; but there is good fishing. Farther south is Saldanha Bay, named after a Portuguese commander. This bay is well closed in by hills of granite and limestone; and, as the water is also deep, it affords, much better than Table Bay, a safe inner harbour for vessels of any size. Very likely this great bay would have become the gateway to South Africa, instead of Table Bay, had it not been that there was no supply of fresh water. This has now been brought from the Berg River, twenty miles away; and the bay is becoming a busy place with its lime works, stone quarries, and fish-canning.



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Main Street, Stellenbosch

20

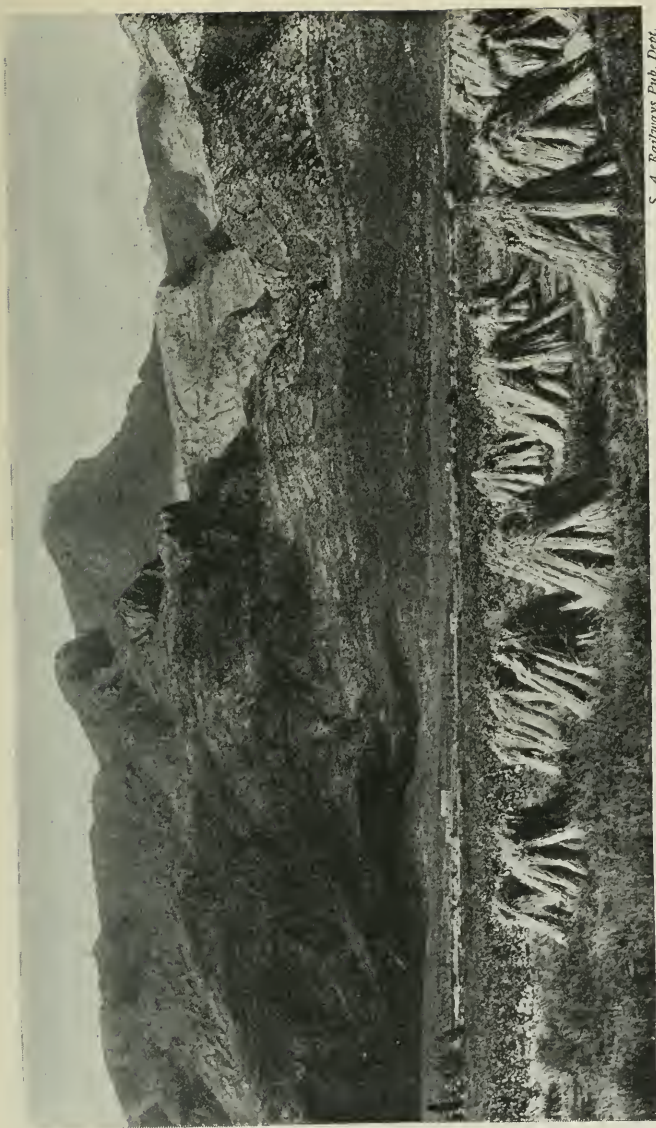
THE SOUTH-WEST CAPE (III)

Between the sea and the valley of the Great Berg River lie the plains of Malmesbury, which produce great crops of wheat and grapes. Malmesbury has hot springs which, when tried, have been found useful by those who suffer from rheumatism. To the east of Cape Town lies Stellenbosch. This town was laid out by Governor van der Stel, and takes its name from him and his wife, whose maiden name was Bosch. It lies at the foot of the southern spurs of the Drakenstein Mountains, and through it runs the Eerste River. Green slopes and mountain peaks look down on its vineyards, orchards, and gardens. It is a Dutch town of broad streets and white houses shaded by beautiful oak trees, a town of schools and colleges.

To the south, near False Bay, is Somerset West, a beautiful town nestling in a green valley in a bend of the Hottentots Holland Mountains. In the country around are rich farms and vineyards. Close by, on the shore, is Somerset Strand, which attracts many visitors with its fine sands and sea-bathing.

Near the source of the Breede River, well up on the mountains, is Ceres, which can be reached by road through Mitchell's Pass. The country round about is covered with fertile farms, orchards, and vineyards. Wheat and apples grow very well, and many sheep are reared.

The Hex River, a tributary of the Breede River, can show grand scenery. On each side of the valley are high rugged mountains; and covering the river flats are well-kept farms and vineyards. Grapes, citrus, and stone fruits grow everywhere, and rich crops of wheat are harvested. Many people



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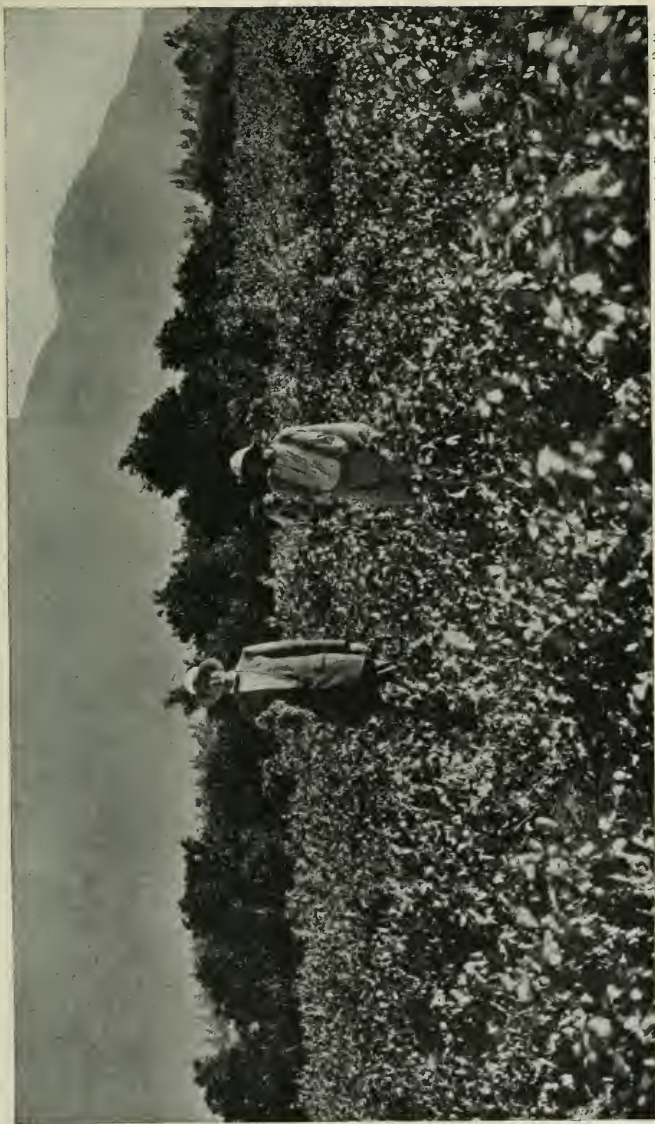
Harvest in Hex River Valley

are employed in the picking, sorting, packing, and canning of fruit.

If we follow the Breede River seawards, we begin to enter drier country. Here the farmers have to irrigate their lands, and there is plenty of water to be had from the mountains. Worcester lies in the valley near the mountains, at the point where the Hex River joins the Breede. Its streets are lined with oaks, willows, gums, and poplars; and through the town many brooklets sparkle and dance in the sunlight. All around are grassy meadows, vineyards, and orchards. Lucerne is grown in large quantities to feed ostriches and other stock.

Farther on down the valley is Robertson, a pretty town close to the mountains. Here was the first irrigation canal in South Africa. All around are rich farms; and large numbers of wagons and carts are built here from the timber grown in the district. Not far away is Montagu, where one finds fertile farms, citrus orchards, and vineyards. The hot springs and baths of Montagu are famous for the relief they give to users suffering from rheumatism.

Between the Zonder Einde Mountains and the sea lies the Caledon district, a varied country of hills and valleys and sparkling streams. The farms produce large quantities of grain and wool, and the district is rich in wild flowers. Orchids, bluebells, and blood-red heath bloom in abundance. The town of Caledon is a health resort, famous for its hot springs. Bredasdorp is the most southerly district of this south-west region. Grain and wool are its chief products; and the harvest of the sea is made up of good oysters and many kinds of fish. Here is the southernmost point of Africa, Cape Agulhas ("The Needles"). The coast is most dangerous for sailors, for the sharp, sunken rocks run far out to sea, just under the surface of the water. At



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Grapes and Fruit-trees—Hex River Valley

Danger Point was wrecked the troopship *Birkenhead*, in the year 1852. The bravery of the four hundred men, who stood in line on the deck while the ship was sinking and women and children were being helped into the only two boats, will never be forgotten:

“If that day’s work no clasp or medal mark,
If each proud heart no cross of bronze may press,
Nor cannon thunder loud from tower or park,
This feel we none the less.”

It is a brave tale that will live for ever.

And now we leave this region of rocky mountains and fertile valleys and plains. The Dutch found it a land of wild men and wilder animals. It is now a region of smiling farms, orchards, and vineyards; of quiet towns with white houses and great shady trees; of peaceful homes.

21

THE SOUTH CAPE REGION

This region stretches from the Breede River in the west to Sunday River in the east, and it is enclosed between the line of the Zwartbergen in the north and the sea in the south. It is a region of high mountain walls and long, deep valleys, which run from east to west parallel to the coast. At places the rivers break through the long mountain ranges, making cross valleys which lead southwards to the sea.

The region consists of two parts—the Coastal Belt and the Little Karroo. The dividing line between the two parts is the Coastal Range, made up chiefly of the Langebergen, the Outeniquas, and the Zitzikamas Mountains, which end at Cape St. Francis not far from Algoa Bay.



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Long Kloof

The Little Karroo lies between this Coastal Range and the second chain of Southern Mountains. This begins with the Hex River Mountains, and runs eastwards in the Keeromberg, the Little and the Great Zwartbergen, the Baviaans Kloof and the Kouga, and the Great Winterhoek Mountains which end to the west of Algoa Bay.

The South-West Cape is a region of winter rains; but this South Cape Region has different climates within it. The western part of this region mostly has winter rains; the middle and the east get rain in summer; while a strip of the Coastal Belt from George to Humansdorp has rain all through the year. The Little Karroo, farther from the sea, gets less rain than the Coastal Belt.

The Breede, that is "Broad" River, gathers its waters from the eastern uplands of the South-West Cape Region. After flowing down a fertile valley, it reaches the sea to the east of Cape Agulhas through a mouth which is wide and deep enough to allow small vessels to enter Port Beaufort.

Besides the Breede, there are three other rivers in this region, namely, the Gouritz, Gamtoos, and Sunday. They rise on the slopes of the mountain chain that rims the Great Karroo in the north. The feeders of the Gouritz and the Gamtoos run east or west in the long valleys. The upper courses of these two rivers cross the Great Karroo, and so they are often dry except after rain falls. The Sunday River, on the edge of a wetter region, collects more rain-water, and at various places dams have been made to catch the water and use it for irrigation.

The Coastal Belt

The Swellendam and Riversdale districts share the winter rains of the south-west. Swellendam is a very old town; it was founded in the year 1745 by settlers who came down

the Breede valley. It is situated at the point where the Breede River leaves its enclosed valley and enters more open country. In the drier north, sheep are reared; in the grassy southern parts there is more cattle-farming. Oranges and ostrich feathers are also products. Riversdale has good grazing for sheep and does a large trade in wool.

Mossel or Mussel Bay is formed by a deep curve in the coast. Within the bay a breakwater helps to protect the small harbour. Large vessels cannot enter the harbour, but have to lie out in the bay. This port is the gateway to a large extent of country behind it, and its fishing industry is important. In the district are many excellent cattle and ostrich farms.

Eastwards from this point the Coastal Range comes nearer to the sea; and from George to Humansdorp rains fall all through the year, and the mountains are covered with forests. George was named after King George III. It is one of the prettiest towns in the province, lying at the foot of the wooded Outeniqua Mountains. Its wide streets are bordered with shady oaks and sparkling streams. In the country around are many grain farms.

The Knysna district is a country of beautiful scenery. Mountain, forest, lake, river, and sea make pictures everywhere. Here Nature puts on her greenest robes. The slopes of the mountains are clothed with thick forest, and, through deep kloofs and rich valleys, rivers and streams tumble and hurry to the sea. The opener valley lands near the sea graze fat cattle. At places can be heard the sound of busy saw-mills; for the timber industry is important here, wagon- and building-wood being produced. Knysna has an almost landlocked harbour. The entrance is between high cliffs, and is so narrow that only small vessels can enter. Inside it opens into a broad lagoon.



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Port Elizabeth, from Donkin Reserve

This harbour is the only outlet for the timber and other trade of the country around.

Humansdorp and Uitenhage lie amongst mountains to the south of the Great Winterhoek. They are good cattle- and sheep-farming districts. Humansdorp, though a small town, is a busy farming centre. Uitenhage is a town of beautiful gardens. Wool-washing and railway works employ many people, and there are many orchards in the country around.

Port Elizabeth, named after the wife of Governor Sir Rufane Donkin, lies on the wide curve of Algoa Bay. Large vessels cannot come close in to the shore, but there are two long jetties where goods and passengers are landed from, or taken off to, the ocean steamers. This harbour carries on a large trade with the inland parts of South Africa. Goods of all kinds, from Europe and other places, are landed here; and in return there are shipped wool, fruit, hides, and grain. The town is very busy with its flour- and saw-mills, biscuit- and jam-works, leather- and boot-factories. The Feather Market is the centre of the trade in ostrich feathers, wool, and fruit. Here landed in 1820 the English settlers who played such a great part in building up this country.

The Little Karroo

In this land of long valleys one misses the green of the Coastal Belt. The valleys are shut off from the sea, but the dry climate is very healthy. Much of the land is fertile, and, where irrigation is possible, large crops of grain, tobacco, and lucerne can be grown. Lucerne has made Oudtshoorn the "home of the ostrich". Ladysmith, a small town, lies in the basin of the Groote River, a feeder of the Gouritz. The district is good for grain and stock-

farming. Oudtshoorn, on the Olifants River, another feeder of the Gouritz, is in the midst of rich farming country. By irrigation the farmers are able to raise large crops of tobacco and lucerne. Also cattle, sheep, and ostriches are reared; and fruit and grain grow well. About 20 miles away in the wild Zwartbergen are the famous Cango Caves, which have been hollowed out of the limestone rock by underground streams. Uniondale, farther to the east, lies in a narrow well-watered valley. In the district many sheep are reared.

22

THE CAPE REGION OF DRY LANDS

From the second great chain of mountains northwards to the Molopo River, and from the dry Atlantic coast in the west to the Great Fish River in the east, lie the lands where little rain falls. This region takes in the Great Karroo, the Northern Karroo, Little Namaqualand, Bushmanland, Bechuanaland, and Griqualand West. Apart from the Great Karroo, which is on the south side of the main water-parting, it occupies the most of the middle and lower basin of the Orange River.

The Great Karroo

Karoo is a Hottentot word, meaning "dry land". The Great Karroo lies to the north of the Little Karroo, between the second and third chains of Cape Mountains. It stretches from the Hex River Mountains in the west to the middle course of the Great Fish River in the east. It is a flat stretch of country, with here a long stony ridge, and there a bare kopje.

The climate is very healthy. Although the days are

warm, the nights are cool, and in the winter-time even cold. The extreme west gets winter rains; in the centre and east the rain falls in summer. But the little rain that falls comes down as thunder showers. The soil is not deep, and, being sun-baked, the rain runs rapidly off. Only a few thorn trees are to be seen along the dry river courses, and willows beside the dams. After rain the wild flowers burst into bloom, but their life is short. The dry dusty land is dotted with shrubs and bushes, while here and there one sees a little grass.

The great trouble of the farmers is to keep the flood waters from running away, and carrying with them the best soil. So they build dams, and put up windmills working pumps over bore-holes. The water is led on to lands specially levelled and prepared; and lucerne, wheat, and other crops grow well. Ostriches thrive on the lucerne pastures. Great flocks of sheep and goats feed on the salt Karroo bush, and grow fat on it. Cattle and horses are also reared in places. Naturally, farms on the Great Karroo are large. The towns and trading centres, such as Laingsburg, Prince Albert, Beaufort West, Willowmore, Jansenville, Aberdeen, Graaf-Reinet, Somerset East, and Cradock are mostly on the edge of the Karroo.

The Northern Karroo or Northern Plains

This great upland region extends northwards to the Orange River from the third chain of mountains, which forms the long water-parting of the Cape Province. It is a region of dry plains, broken by bare hills, and covered with loose stones. Heavy frosts occur in the winter nights, and the summer days are very warm; but the winter days and the



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Karoo Storage Dam

summer nights are very enjoyable. Short Karroo bush and tufted grass make up the plant life. As in the Great Karroo, the rain falls in thunder showers, and the farmers try to catch the storm waters by means of dams. From irrigated lands, good crops of cereals are obtained; and on the large grazing farms, cattle and sheep are reared. This region does not have many white inhabitants, and in the more remote parts are to be found only some wandering tribes of natives. The chief towns, all farming centres, are Van Rynsdorp, Calvinia, Sutherland, Fraserburg, Victoria West, Britstown, Prieska, Richmond, Middelburg, Colesburg. At De Aar and Nauwpoort there are important railway junctions. At Kakamas, on the Orange River, is a large irrigation settlement; and there is another at Van Wyk's Vlei, on a tributary of the Hartebeest.

Little Namaqualand and Bushmanland

Namaqualand consists of coastal belt, terraces, and mountain rim. Eastwards from the mountains stretches the plains of Bushmanland.

The coast between the Olifants River and the Orange is very straight. Only small vessels can enter Port Nolloth; and from this a short railway line travels a distance of 90 miles, to the copper mines at Ookiep. The coastal belt is well covered with bush, and there is fair grazing. This results from the heavy fogs along the coast. The upland part of Namaqualand consists of vast, stony wastes, with rocky mountains and kopjes. It is almost bare of plant life, except for tufted grass and the kokerboom, a kind of aloe. Wheat and other cereals can be grown on the inland part of the coastal belt and on the level ground between the kopjes

on the terraces. The few farmers are also able to rear cattle, sheep, and goats.

Bushmanland is mostly a region of desolate sandy plains, with rocky hills here and there. It is the driest part of the Cape Province. There is little plant life, which consists mostly of low shrubs. After rains, Bushman grass is fairly plentiful for a time. Few white men have been able to make settled homes here, and the country is inhabited chiefly by Hottentots. Along the Orange River, however, land under irrigation produces good crops of lucerne, wheat, figs, grapes, and oranges.

Bechuanaland and Griqualand West

This division of the great dry lands runs northwards from the Orange River to the Molopo, and separates the South-West Protectorate from the High Veld of the Transvaal, and the Orange Free State.

Bechuanaland

Bechuanaland is a vast plain of sand, which here and there is thrown up into long dunes. It is drier than the part of the Kalahari lying to the north of the Molopo. Towards the east, the land rises to the High Veld region. The Kalahari is not utter desert. It is sandy country like Bushmanland; but it gets more rain, and has many more forms of plant life. The Bushman grass grows with very little rain, and cattle fatten on it. The wonderful tamma melon can thrive on a scorching sand-dune, and it keeps game and stock alive in times of pitiless drought. The kameel doorn grows to a good height, and dense bush covers some parts. Antelopes of many kinds, giraffes, and wild ostriches make their homes in this region.

Owing to the scarcity of water, it is difficult to travel from one place to another in the heart of the Kalahari during the dry winter season. Hottentot tribes, however, wander from one melon patch to another with their cattle; and Bushmen live by hunting. In the eastern parts, which get a little more rain, farmers can pasture cattle and sheep, and grow patches of mealies and Kaffir corn.

Rarely is the rainfall enough to enable the Molopo, with the Kuruman and its other feeders, to send water to the Orange River. The surface of the Kalahari is fairly flat; and so, after rain, the water stands in the river courses in pools. Very seldom, however, is surface water to be seen. It quickly dries up in the sand. Water, however, can nearly always be got by digging down into the dry bed of a river. Hence the lonely white settlers are to be found along the larger rivers.

Mafeking is a trading centre, with a native town beside it. The Molopo River rises near by. Taungs is another centre of native life. Kuruman will always be remembered in connection with the missionary work of Dr. Moffat and Dr. Livingstone. The "Eye of Kuruman" is a stream of water that comes out of a low dark cave. It is the most wonderful spring in the dry lands, and it never stops flowing. "When all other springs fail, farmers come from afar with their flocks and herds to the Kuruman River." After flowing about 50 or 60 miles, its waters become dried up in the desert sands. The Gordonia district takes in the very driest part of the Kalahari. Its chief town is Upington, which stands on the Orange River, and is the southern gateway to the desert. Here excellent results have been got from irrigation, large crops of lucerne, wheat, and other cereals being grown.

Griqualand West

This district is in the south-east of the Kalahari and is really part of it. In the west are low, stony ridges covered with bush, the Asbestos and Kuruman Mountains. The centre is occupied by a long plain, the Kaap Plateau, that runs from the Orange River to Vryburg, and is covered with bush and shrubs. In the east are the long, open, park-like valleys of the Vaal, Harts, and Modder Rivers. It is a dry, sandy country where sheep and cattle are grazed. But the greatest wealth of this district is got from the famous diamond mines of Kimberley, which stands near the eastern boundary, close to the Boshof district in the Orange Free State.

23

THE SOUTH-EAST CAPE REGION (I)

This region takes in all the Cape Province to the east of a line drawn from Algoa Bay northwards to the Orange River. The surface is varied, and is made up of coastal belt, terraces, mountain rim, and northern plains. Good summer rains make it a region of grass-land and forest.

The Coastal Belt

The coast has no safe harbour except East London. Here the deep mouth of the Buffalo River has been made into a good harbour. Port Alfred stands at the mouth of the Kowie River, but ships are unable to use it as a harbour. The coastal belt has stretches of grassy plains, with belts of forest and thick bush. Rich farms and orchards dot this strip of green country. Apples, citrus fruits, and pine-apples grow well; and heavy crops of maize and Kaffir corn are raised.

The Alexandria and Bathurst districts contain rich meadow-lands. In the dense Addo Bush elephants used to roam; but the most of them had to be shot, owing to the damage they were doing on farms. Peddie, with its bush and corn-lands, is inhabited mostly by natives. The East London district is also fruitful, but it is much cut up by many deep river channels. Komgha is the last district before we come to Kaffirland, which lies beyond the Great Kei River. Here, as in Peddie, there are more natives than white people.

Terraces and Uplands

These consist of broken lines of mountains and hills that come rolling down to the sea from the Stormbergen, which are part of the great watershed of the province. The chief line of mountains is formed by the Great Winterberg, the Katberg, and the Amatola Mountains. Through the mountains and the winding valleys the rivers make their way by many turnings to the sea. Albany is a district of varied and beautiful scenery. It is a country of green hills and rich valleys, where cattle, sheep, and ostriches thrive and the ploughed lands give good harvests of corn. It is well watered by the Great Fish River and its feeders. Grahamstown, girt about by tree-clad slopes, is one of the fairest towns in South Africa. Like Stellenbosch, it is a town of schools and colleges. It became the chief town of the district in which the British settlers of 1820 made their homes.

Eastwards the King William's Town district is a country of pastures and trees. In the Pirie Forest, running along the Amatolas, grow the useful sneeze-wood and yellow-wood trees. King William's Town is a busy place with many industries. Stutterheim is a small district with a



Buffalo Harbour, East London

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village of the same name, regarded as a health resort. Forests of valuable timber grow on the mountain slopes, down which tumble many streams. In Bedford, Fort Beaufort, Stockenstroom, and Victoria East there is varied scenery of mountain and valley. The river flats hold much good farming land, where cattle and sheep are reared in large numbers; and Stockenstroom grows good tobacco.

Farther up the terraces come the districts of Cathcart, Queenstown, and Tarkastad. We are still in a region of mountains and valleys, where run the head-waters of the Great Fish River and the Great Kei River. But we have now left the forest lands for a grass-land country of valley flats and plains with rolling mountains between. Here large flocks and herds form the wealth of the farmers, who possess some of the best stock-farms in the province.

Over the Great Water-parting

When we cross the Stormberg Mountains we find that the rivers and streams now run north, as the land falls away to the Orange River. It is a country of mountains and plains with enough summer rains to make it a good grass-land area. The winters are very cold, however, snow often falling in the mountains. Steynsburg district lies on both sides of the great watershed. It is a district that shows well the change from the Dry Land Region to the Grass-land Region of Summer Rains. Amongst its mountains, sheep and goats are reared. The district of Albert extends from the Stormberg to the Orange River. Burghersdorp is a farming centre for the district, in which sheep and cattle thrive. At Molteno coal is mined. In Wodehouse district corn and wool are the chief products, and the town of Dordrecht does a large trade in these. Also there are coal-mines at Indwe. Barkly East lies amongst moun-

tains, and its well-watered grass-lands support large flocks of sheep. Aliwal North also has good grazing lands. The town of the same name stands on the Orange River, which is spanned by a fine bridge. Close to the town are famous sulphur springs, which attract many invalids. Herschel district, crossed by the Wittenbergen, is inhabited by natives, there being only a few whites in the villages. Large crops of grain are grown.

Kaffirland or Kaffraria

This part of the Cape Province stretches from the Great Kei River to Natal, running between the Drakensberg and the sea. It is a native reserve, that is, it is kept for natives only. White people are not allowed to buy land. It is governed by a chief magistrate, who lives at Umtata, the largest town. The natives are mostly Tembus, Pondos, and Fingos. Griqualand East is a district different from the others, for it is inhabited by a mixed race named Griquas, who were allowed to settle here about the year 1840, under their leader Adam Kok. Many of these ignorant Griquas sold their lands to white men for almost nothing, in many cases for a few cattle or even blankets.

The country is very free from crime, few policemen being needed. The natives have their own councils where they meet to talk about what can be done for the good of their districts.

Kaffirland slopes from the Drakensberg to the sea. The coast lands are covered with bush, trees, and flowering shrubs. The uplands consist of wide, rolling hills or mountains bare of trees, but in summer carpeted with green. In the kloofs of the Drakensberg foot-hills are forests of giant yellow-wood and other trees. The streams and rivers hurry to the sea over falls and between steep and high cliffs.



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Mouth of St John's River

The chief river is the Umzimvubu. Port St. John at its mouth is a small harbour, difficult to enter on account of the sand and mud that gather at the river mouth. The small vessels that try to get in sometimes stick fast for days.

The chief occupations are the care of cattle and sheep, and the growing of mealies and Kaffir corn. On the coast grow oranges, lemons, bananas, and pawpaws. Griqualand East is becoming known for its excellent cheese.

Crowds of baboons and monkeys chatter and play in the forests of Pondoland; while parrots and other gaily coloured birds are to be seen in the woodlands.

24

THE SOUTH-EAST CAPE REGION (II)

When the Dutch spread eastwards from Cape Town they came face to face with the Kaffirs, who had wandered down from the north and were spreading through the land between the mountains and the sea. These natives lived in great tribes which numbered thousands of warriors; and they did not wish to share this pleasant land with the white man. So fighting went on for fifty years before there was peace.

In England there was great distress after the wars against Napoleon and the French, and so some thousands of settlers were sent out to this part of South Africa to help to keep back the Kaffirs and to make it a white man's country. They settled in Albany and Bathurst districts and had hard times to begin with. They planted wheat, but the crop failed. Without losing heart they sowed mealies, pumpkins, and potatoes. The Kaffirs and wild animals preyed on their flocks and herds, and the many native wars brought great trouble.

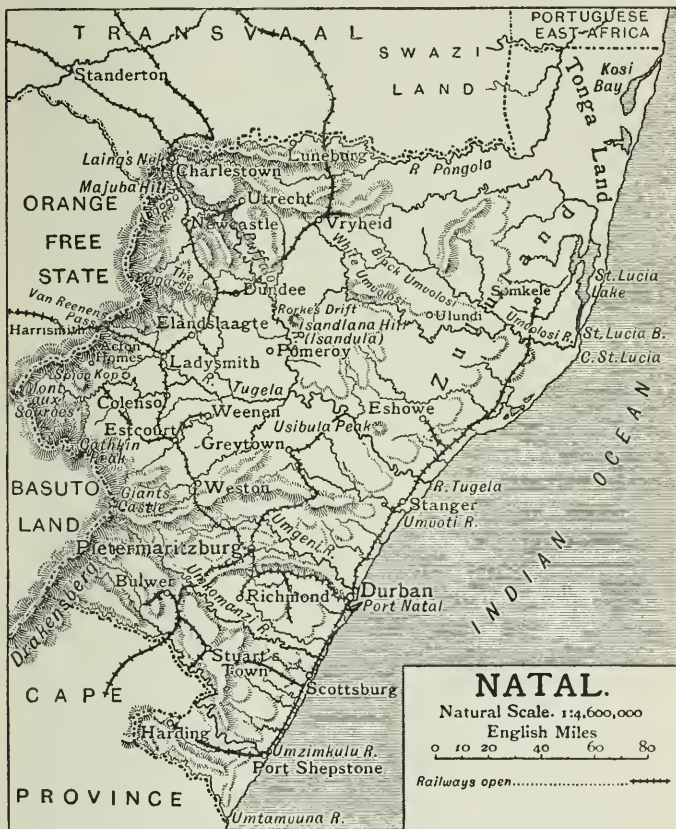
It was a time of strife when brave deeds were countless. Settler and red-coat alike met the stabbing assegai with the greatest gallantry, and fought off the swarms of savage warriors in a hundred fights. North of Grahamstown is a poort where a band of Boers, driven into a corner, fought to the last bullet and the last man. Brave Stockenstroom, trying to make peace, rode alone into the midst of a warlike mass of Kaffirs; but he was stabbed to death when smoking a pipe with the chiefs. Above all, the name of Sir Harry Smith cannot be left out of this story. He was a daring fighter and a gallant leader in these Kaffir wars. In six days he rode over wild mountains and bad roads, from Cape Town to Grahamstown, a distance of 600 miles. He did so to lead the white men against the natives. Later, at Fort Hare, he was shut in with a small body of men; but he cut his way to safety through the circling hordes. Now there is peace in the land; and the children of those brave men, who fought so sturdily, are the owners of one of the fairest and most fruitful districts of South Africa.

25

NATAL (I)

Natal is altogether in the region of summer rains. It lies between the mighty Drakensbergen and the sea. In the north, it meets the Transvaal and Portuguese East Africa; in the south it borders upon the Cape Province. The coast-line stretches along the Indian Ocean, being partly low-lying sands and partly rocks. On the western side, the border is the mighty mountain wall of the Drakensbergen. The southern part of this inland border runs parallel to the coast, at about 100 miles from it. Then, on reaching Giants' Castle, it bends back into a sharp bay, forming almost a

right angle. The head of this bay, the huge Mount of Sources, is about 40 miles farther back from the sea. The great dividing range then runs northwards, and at Majuba Hill meets the Transvaal.



From the Giants' Castle, a broad ridge breaks away and runs in a north-east direction, almost reaching the Tugela River. This central ridge fingers out towards the sea; and down the valleys between the fingers flow the Rivers Umvoti,

Umgeni, Umlazi, and Illovo, taking them in order from north to south.

In the southern part of the province, the Drakensbergen fall away seawards in many ridges. Between these ridges lie the valleys down which flow the Umkomanzi, the Umzimkulu, and their many feeders.

Apart from Zululand, the northern part of Natal is mostly covered by the great broad basin of the Tugela River, which gathers the streams that flow from the Drakensbergen all the way from Giants' Castle to Majuba Hill. The Tugela itself has its birthplace amongst the rocks of the mighty Mount of Sources. Its chief feeders are the Mooi River, rising on the slopes of Giants' Castle, and the Buffalo, with its head-waters from Majuba Hill. Zululand is drained by the Umlatuzi River and the White and Black Umvolosi Rivers.

Natal is a land of rivers. High mountains are great rain-makers; and the Drakensbergen help to bring down the rain that is carried by the winds blowing inland from the sea. Down the valleys and ravines between the ridges rush the rivers on their journey to the sea. At a terrace edge, the water dives with a roar over a cliff into a deep pool, forming a waterfall of the greatest beauty. Howick Falls on the Umgeni River are perhaps the best known.

Along the 340 miles of coast, there are about a hundred rivers, large or small, each opening into the sea by a separate river mouth. If you travel along the coastal belt, you have no sooner climbed out of one valley than you begin to descend into another. The railway that follows the coast-line cost a great deal of money, as so many bridges had to be built. If you travel by rail from Durban to Johannesburg or Bloemfontein, the line runs to the north-west up over the central ridge. Then it dips down into the broad basin of



Mont Aux Sources

the Tugela, from which it climbs westwards over the mountains.

But the chief thing to remember is that the whole country is very much broken up. If you know this, you will be able to understand that there is not so very much land that can be ploughed up for crops.

26

NATAL (II)

The Coastal Belt

This belt varies in width, being broadest in the north, where it spreads out to about 50 miles. At places, however, it is only a little more than 10 miles broad. It takes in most of the counties of Alfred, Alexandra, Durban, and Victoria. Much of it is covered with low rounded hills, between which the many rivers cut their way to the sea. Towards the north, flat stretches are to be met with.

Here sugar is king, and fields of waving cane cover the hills. Graceful palms display their lovely plumes, the slender bamboo sways in the breeze, and the banana hangs out its tattered green flags. At places dense bush and forest still cover the sloping river banks. Tea plantations and fields of maize and Kaffir corn tell of man's work in this rich region; and planters are busy growing tobacco, sisal fibre, and cotton. The whole belt is a fruit garden. Indian coolies, as well as Europeans, own fruit farms where bananas, pineapples, pawpaws, mangoes, citrus fruits, and avocado pears grow in plenty. The fruit trade, next to sugar, is the most important.

Port Shepstone stands at the mouth of the Umzimkulu River; but ships cannot use it as a harbour, for the entrance



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Bananas—Natal



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Durban—Port and Bay

is blocked with sand. Near by are tea plantations, and limestone and marble quarries. Lower Umkomaas, at the mouth of the beautiful Umkomaas River, is a favourite holiday village. It is only one of the many places all along this beautiful coast to which the dwellers of the inland parts of Southern Africa come in search of health and pleasure. Fishing, bathing, and boating attract many visitors. At Isipingo is buried Dick King, who will always be remembered for his famous ride in the year 1840, when he raced from Durban to Grahamstown in ten days to get help for the English who were shut up in Durban by the Boers.

Durban is the chief town and the seaport of Natal. It is built on a lagoon, which is well sheltered and forms a good harbour. Not only does it serve as Natal's gateway to the world, but also through it passes much of the trade of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The ships of many nations line its busy wharves, and fishing vessels bring here their harvest of the sea. Near the entrance to the harbour are whaling stations, producing oil. In a region of sugar and fruit, Durban, of course, is famous for its jams and preserves. Also it handles the trade in the coast products, such as sugar, tea, and fruit.

About 14 miles inland from Durban lies Pinetown, on the edge of the coastal belt. It is a little town, busy with many industries. Northwards along the coast is Stamford Hill with its large match factory. Then comes Verulam, a great sugar centre. Beyond Tongaat, the country begins to show more grass-land and cattle. Farther on is Stanger, where was the royal town of Chaka, the great Zulu king, one of the most cruel and savage rulers that ever lived.

Zululand

North of the Tugela River lies Zululand. This well-watered country is not all coastal belt. Its higher western parts belong to the midland belt of Natal, and much of its surface is bush veld, very hilly and broken. The great warrior folk are now quiet farmers. They grow maize and Kaffir corn, and graze cattle. White farmers are allowed to settle in certain parts, and their fields of sugar-cane and cotton clothe the hills and dales. Eshowe, the capital, is near the higher inland edge of the coastal belt. There are no harbours, but shallow lagoons and lakes line the shores. The largest of these, Lake St. Lucia, is surrounded by low, marshy land; but Kosi Bay may some day be a great harbour. All along the coast lands, men have to beware of malarial fever.

27

NATAL (III)

The Midland Region

If we climb inland from the coastal belt, we leave the sugar-fields behind and come to a region of green, hilly pastures. This higher region takes in most of the counties of Pietermaritzburg and Umvoti. In this belt of grassveld, cattle, horses, sheep, and goats thrive. So it is a dairy-farming region, and cattle are fattened for the meat export trade. On the ploughed lands the farmers grow maize, Kaffir corn, oats, barley, potatoes, and tobacco. Great plantations of wattle trees provide bark for tanning leather.

Pietermaritzburg is the chief town in this region. It is the capital of Natal, and was founded in the year 1839 by the Dutch voortrekkers in memory of two of their leaders,



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Pietermaritzburg from Kettlefontein Corner

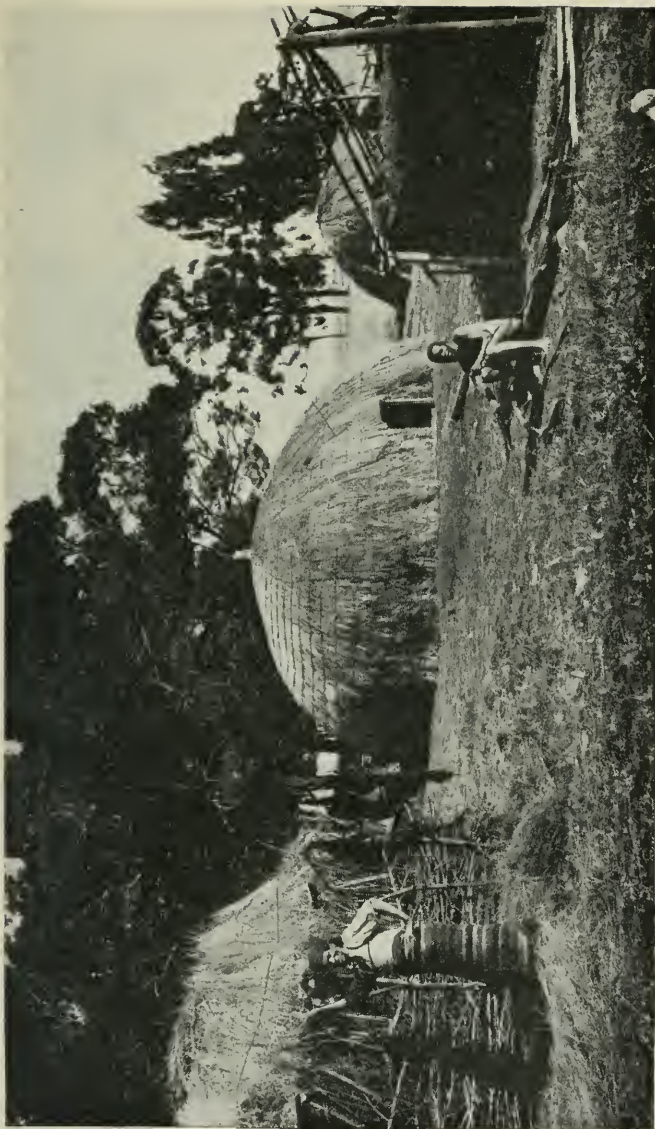
Piet Retief and Gert Maritz. It lies in a green valley, and from all sides hills look down on it. Many men are employed in its large railway workshops. The forests in the district provide timber for making wagons; and, of course, with cattle and wattle bark there is a tannery. The other towns are farming centres, such as Richmond, Nottingham Road, and Bulwer. In Umvoti County the chief centre of life is Greytown, in the midst of a sheep-farming district.

The Upland Terraces

These uplands are occupied by the counties of Weenan, Klip River, Vryheid, Utrecht, and the northern parts of Pietermaritzburg lying below the berg. They belong mostly to the great Tugela basin with those of the Mooi and the Buffalo Rivers. From the bottom of the basin the land rises to meet the great mountain wall of the Drakensbergen. The ground is very much broken; but its grass-lands provide good pasture for cattle, sheep, and horses; and in the sheltered valleys grain can be grown.

At Weenan, in 1838, many Dutch—men, women, and children—were murdered by the Zulus. Ladysmith is an important railway centre. Here the main line from Durban branches into two roads, one going to the Orange Free State and the other to the Transvaal. Dundee is busy with its coal-mines. Newcastle has iron as well as coal, and these two minerals are making it an important place.

This region saw much of the desperate warfare between the white and the savage. On the sloping bank of a rocky stream, one of the head-waters of the White Umvolosi, stood the royal village of Dingaan, the great Zulu king. This savage, in the year 1838, murdered Piet Retief and his men, who had gone to him to ask lands for the farmers



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Natives building Huts, Zululand

who had trekked from Cape Colony. But on the Blood River, a feeder of the Buffalo, a force of Dutch farmers under Andries Pretorius met the savage warriors of Dingaan. The farmers, only a handful of men, fought with the greatest gallantry. They broke and scattered the Zulu army, which left behind three thousand dead.

At Isandhlwana, a hill near the Buffalo River, a British force was surrounded and cut up by the Zulus. Only a few men escaped to tell the sad tale. At Rorke's Drift, a few miles away on the Buffalo River, there was a hospital camp, which was next attacked by the Zulus. But, behind a low wall of mealie-sacks and biscuit-boxes, a hundred red-coats defended the sick and beat back four thousand savages. Later, at Ulundi, a British army defeated the great warriors of Cetewayo, and broke for ever the Zulu power. So both Dutch and English have played their part in helping to win Natal from savagery.

28

BASUTOLAND

Basutoland is a country of mountains like Switzerland, and the two are about the same size. Natal, the Orange Free State, and Basutoland meet together in the mighty Mount of Sources. This great rock mass is well named, for it is the birthplace of many streams. Here rise the Orange and Tugela, but they soon part company and hurry in opposite directions, the Orange on its long journey to the Atlantic, the Tugela to make its way to the Indian Ocean. The highest part of the country lies along the eastern edge, where the great Drakensbergen form a natural wall dividing Basutoland from Natal. Besides the Mount of Sources other very high points of the mighty mountain

barrier are Cathkin Park and Giants' Castle. Each is more than three times as high as Table Mountain.

Another great mountain range is the Malutis. This runs through the country from north-east to south-west. The Drakensbergen are the water-parting between the upper waters of the Orange River and those of the Natal rivers. The Malutis separate the Orange from its feeder the Caledon,



Village, Basutoland

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which forms the western boundary of Basutoland, cutting it off from the Orange Free State. On the south Basutoland meets Cape Colony.

The whole country is of the most broken and rugged nature. It rises in waves of mountains from its lower western side. From the high mountain tops one looks down on a confused mass of hills which dip into beautiful valleys. Far below, in these valleys, run countless rivers and streams through rich farming lands and green patches of pasture. Everywhere the scenery is of the greatest beauty.

on, each valley with its wheat, maize, and millet is a sea of waving green. The flocks and herds are so large that there is scarcely enough grazing for them. The sure-footed Basuto pony is small but sturdy, and it is the best means of travelling in the country. Grain and wool are the chief exports, and the savings bank does steady business.

Maseru, the capital, stands on the Caledon River, and it is joined up with Bloemfontein by rail. Thaba Bosigo was one of the rocky strongholds of Moshesh. Morija lies in a beautiful valley not very far from Maseru. It is an old missionary village, and it has printing and book-binding works. Nearly one-half of the country is too mountainous to support human beings, and so life spreads along the valleys and centres in a few villages.

29

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE

This big country is under the protection of Britain. It is within the region of dry lands, and lies between the Molopo River and the Zambesi, and between South-West Africa on the west, and the Transvaal and Rhodesia on the east. On the whole it is much better wooded than the Bechuanaland district of the Cape Province. In the south-west are sandy wastes; but the north and east get more rain and are better able to supply men with food. We may say that the rainfall increases northwards from the dry Molopo to the green reeds of Lake Ngami.

Along the Transvaal border runs hilly land of no great height, where springs and river water are to be found. This is the most fertile part of the country, and here are the native towns and villages. There are no European towns in the country.

Kanye stands on a great flat-topped hill, which is covered with huts from end to end. Molepolole is also built on the top of a high hill, but it has no water. The women go down to the valley below and fetch water in large pots, which they carry on their heads with easy grace. Shoshong was once the capital of Khama, the greatest of the native chiefs. Owing to want of water, Khama removed his capital to Palapye. Later he left this place for Serowe, which is one of the largest native towns in South Africa. It lies in the midst of fairly fertile country, where water is not so scarce as it is at the other two places.

The whole of this eastern part is very good for cattle. The rainfall, however, is not certain. Still, the natives plough and sow mealies and Kaffir corn every year; but very often the harvests are small. The natives can make beautiful pots of clay; but now paraffin tins also are being used for carrying water, and iron pots for cooking.

Far out in the west are to be found the herdsmen with cattle and goats; and in the more desert parts are the Bushmen who live by hunting, and who carry bows, poisoned arrows, and knobkerries.

Much of the east and north-east is well wooded. Aloes thrive, and the land is park-like, with trees dotted about amongst grass. It abounds with antelopes of many kinds, which must often go for days without water in the dry season, as the wild melon does not grow here.

The northern parts are mostly flat. Here are Lake Ngami and the great Makarikari salt-pan. Lake Ngami was seen first by a European in the year 1846, the traveller being Dr. Livingstone. Then, it was a vast sheet of water, 60 miles broad. Now, it is a wide expanse of reeds, with lakelets of water. Rivers that used to bring water no longer reach it; and one can travel on foot over wide flats that used to be

covered with water. Some people think it possible by dams across two rivers to get water to flow back again into the lake. The great salt-pan receives much water, but a lot of it sinks into the ground and is lost. During the rainy season the flat country around the pan is covered with water as far as the eye can see. Westwards from Lake Ngami the thorn trees spread over much of the country; but, bushy though it is, there is still good grazing for cattle. The desert parts in the west and south have been already described in telling about the dry lands of the Cape Province.

30

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (I)

This vast protectorate is about three times the size of the Transvaal, and much larger than the Cape Province. It stretches northwards from the Orange River to the Cunene, and separates the Atlantic Ocean from the Kalahari Desert. To the south of it is the Cape Colony, and on the north it is bounded by Angola (Portuguese West Africa). At the north-east corner, a long thin finger reaches out and touches the Zambezi River.

The surface of the country varies greatly. The coast belt is a desolate, sandy strip with immense sand-dunes. Behind it is a belt of utter desert, about 50 miles wide in places, and covered with sand and bare rock. Beyond this, the land slopes up to the highlands of Damaraland and Namaqualand, which are part of the great highland rim of Southern Africa. On the eastern side these highlands fall away to the sandy wastes of the Kalahari. The north, up towards the Cunene and the Okavango River, is flat. Towards the south, the highlands sink by degrees to the Orange River valley.



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Lüderitz Bay

There are no real rivers, only channels by means of which rainwater runs away; and the rivers flow for only a few weeks or even a few days or hours yearly above ground. This flowing may occur several times during wet weather. The water underneath the ground follows the dry channels to the sea; and so, in the river-beds, water can be found sometimes by sinking a few feet down. Usually, however, one must bore deeper. Only the three boundary rivers, namely the Orange, the Cunene, and the Okavango, flow all through the year.

The central part of a river-bed is covered with sand and gravel, on each side of which are strips of fertile soil washed down by the rains. On these side strips, which keep water longer than the central sands, the "small holder" can grow vegetables, tobacco, grapes, and other fruit. Since the rain quickly sinks into the sandy soil or into clefts in the dry cracked ground, "standing water" is not often seen, except in the plains where pools for a time help cattle and game to exist. One does not find springs or "fontains" of water always gushing, although there are hot mineral springs with a steady flow of water in some places. So the dwellers in this land of thirst depend on wells for drinking-water, and on dams for watering crops and herds.

The Coast

This is an almost unbroken strip of bare sand and rock. There is little to break the loneliness of this shore-line, backed by its belt of enormous dunes about 15 miles broad. Sea-birds wheel screaming in the air, or, in a flash, dive downwards for their prey. In the lagoons, the pink flamingo goes quietly about his business. Away from the landing-places, a few natives, fishing from the rocks, are the only human beings to be seen. Here and there the great white

bones of a monster whale litter the beach. And over all hangs a hazy mist.

The Portuguese were the first to find Lüderitz Bay, and they called it "Angra Pequena" (the name it again bears), meaning "Little Bay". At its entrance is a small group of islets, and it is quite a good natural harbour. An easy



Dr. Wm. Macdonald

Narra Fruit

road leads inland from it, the sand-hills here not forming an impassable wall. The houses of the small town are well built; but, as the rainfall is very, very small, there are no trees or gardens. Nearly everywhere one finds the streets strewn with sand. Not far from the town, diamonds were discovered in the year 1908; and this brought more people into the country.

Walvis Bay opens towards the north. A long tongue of

sand-bank shelters it from the Atlantic waves on its west side. Within the bay, the largest vessels may safely anchor; but they cannot come close inshore. The chief occupation of the few inhabitants is fishing, snoek being caught in large numbers. The usual great sand-hills bar the way inland; but Walvis Bay has been made the chief port, being joined up by rail with Swakopmund, a few miles to the north, where the huge sand-dunes are absent and there is thus a fairly easy road into the country.

On the sand-hills, one may find one of the wonders of the plant world. This is the Narra fruit, which grows around Walvis Bay mostly, but is also to be found spreading northwards along the bare sand-hills, and eastwards into the desert. It forms the chief food of the Hottentots around Walvis Bay. Over the dunes it straggles in dense patches; and it sends its long roots far down into the sand in search of water. Its long thin stems are armed with sharp thorns, which help to keep off animals.

The narra fruit begins to ripen about Christmas, and it may be gathered up to the end of May. Containing a good deal of sugar, it is very wholesome; and so, in some places, the natives have narra plots marked off, and handed down from father to son. Those natives who are not so lucky as to possess such a plot, trek from one narra fruit-field to the next.

At Swakopmund there is no shelter whatever for vessels, which have to anchor about a mile from the shore. Walvis Bay has taken the place of Swakopmund as the chief place of entry from the sea; and Swakopmund may be said to be no longer a port but rather a seaside resort. The streets of the town are wide; but they are useless for traffic, as they are covered with deep, loose sand. All wheeled traffic is moved through the streets on narrow rails laid down on the

sand. Boards are laid down for sidewalks. North of Swakopmund there is no landing-place of importance.

The Namib Desert

The coast region of dunes is followed inland by a belt of desert called the Namib, a desolate waste of yellow-grey sand, gravel, and barren rock. Its width is from 20 to



Dr. J. B. Pole Evans

The Namib

60 miles, and it extends nearly the whole length of the country from north to south. There are bare stretches where not a tree or shrub or blade of grass is to be seen. In the dry beds of the upper river courses big trees grow, chiefly the anaboom and the kameel doorn; and near the coast the lower courses support the narra and the tamarisk. The Namib is a region of hunger and thirst, where very few white men or natives are able to live.

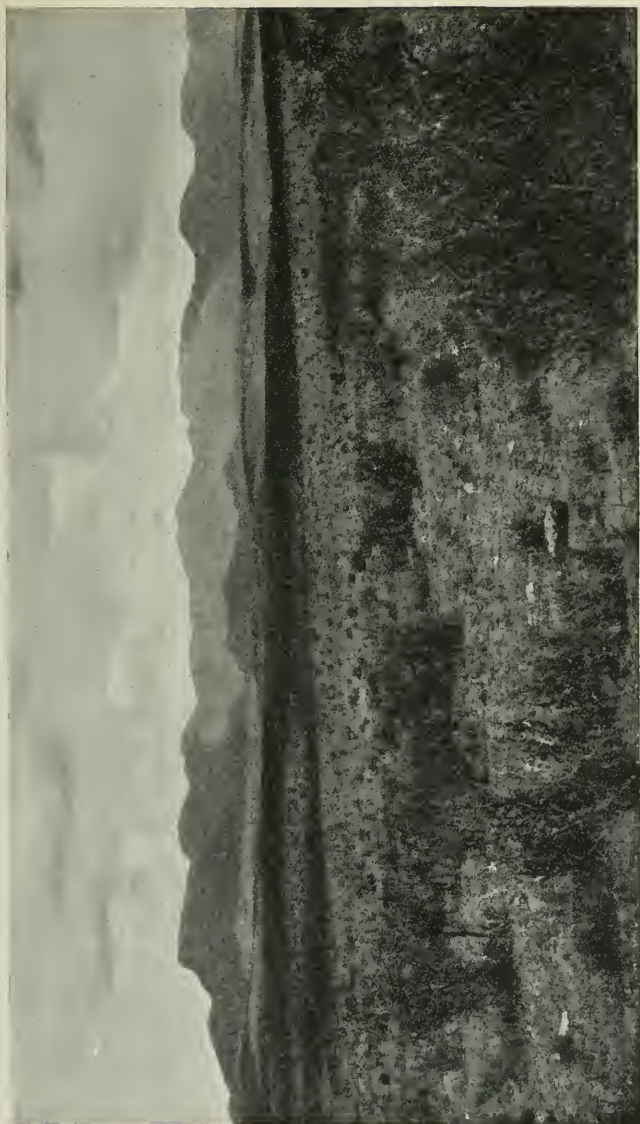
31

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA (II)

The Northern Districts

Most of Amboland except in the west is very flat land, like the bush-covered plains of the northern Kalahari. More rain falls here than in other parts of the Protectorate, and the great Etosha salt-pan is filled at times with water. The rivers have no real valleys, and in the rainy season they easily brim their banks and spread out over the plains, forming wide marshes. Amboland lies within the tropics, and so the climate is not healthy for white people. The native Ovambos are good farmers, rearing cattle and growing grain which they store in huge jars.

Grootfontein, in the north-east, is considered the district of the Protectorate best suited to be the home of the white man. It is a region of hills and rolling plains. The woods and palm trees near Tsumeb and Grootfontein show that this part of the country is on the fringe of tropical Africa, and the trees and rich grass give the land a pleasant park-like appearance. In years of good rainfall, heavy crops of maize can be grown without irrigation, and everywhere cattle thrive. At Tsumeb and Otavi rich copper-mines are worked. Grootfontein is a small farming centre at the end of the northern railway. In this district a number of Boer trekkers settled where there was a spring with an abundant supply of water, the "groot fontein". They called their tract of country "Upingtonia". But in the year 1886, after trouble with the natives, they put themselves under the protection of Germany.



S. A. Katzungys Pub. Dept.

Auas Mountains, near Windhoek

The Central Region

Damaraland covers the central part of the country. Here one finds grand scenery. The great plains of the north change southwards into a much higher region with mountain ranges and deep valleys, from which rise great masses of rock with sharp edges and steep walls. Far to the east of Walvis Bay, at the other side of the Namib Desert, the country slopes upwards to a huge block of land of great height that spreads eastwards towards the Kalahari. On these highlands there are mountains towering above the river valleys. The Auas (or Awas) Mountains near Windhoek are about twice the height of Table Mountain; and northwards the peak of Omatako is higher still.

The country around Windhoek has a fair rainfall, and is the birthplace of many rivers. Here rise the Swakop, the Khuseb, the Great Fish River, and the Nosob, which flows on to the Kalahari to join the Molopo. The highlands are a region of grass and acacia thorn trees. In the river valleys some of the trees, such as the kameel doorn, grow to a giant size. The grass is sweet, and on it the farmers can rear cattle and horses. The southern part of Damaraland has a park-like appearance, being well covered with high trees and grass. However, in Damaraland there is too much thorn bush for sheep and goats to thrive.

Windhoek is the chief town of South-West Africa. It is girt by mountains covered with bush and trees. The district around is a region of pasture-land and a great cattle country. Because of the unfailing water-supply the town was built here. Wherever a bore-hole has been put down a supply of water has been found, and, in some places, hot water gushes out of mineral springs.



S. A. Railways Pub. Dept.

Windhoek, Central Portion

The Southern Region

Between Damaraland and the Orange River lies Great Namaqualand. In Namaqualand the valleys run southwards to the Orange River, and the highlands sink to the tableland in the same direction. Of the long valleys the chief is that of the Great Fish River. The highest land is to be found in the Karas Mountains, near which is Keetmanshoop where there are railway workshops. Gibeon is in the midst of a good sheep district; indeed, the most of Namaqualand is suited to sheep and Angora goats. The native Hottentots, however, must wander from place to place with their flocks. Most of the country is useless for growing crops, being half desert; and the chief form of plant-life is the kokerboom. The sandy plains of the east are covered with tufted grass, and tobacco grows well near Warmbad. The rivers are waterless most of the year, and dry, stony plains cover much of this region.

In the north-east of the country the elephant, giraffe, and rhinoceros roam about, and the hippopotamus makes its home along the Zambezi. Lions are found in the northern tracts of the Kalahari, and the leopard and lynx almost everywhere. Antelopes of many kinds are found, from the small duiker to the great eland, mostly along the eastern border; while, in the more desert parts, the zebra and the ostrich are to be seen.

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RHODESIA

This is a huge country nearly as large as the Union of South Africa, without South-West Africa. It is divided by the great Zambezi River into Northern and Southern Rhodesia.

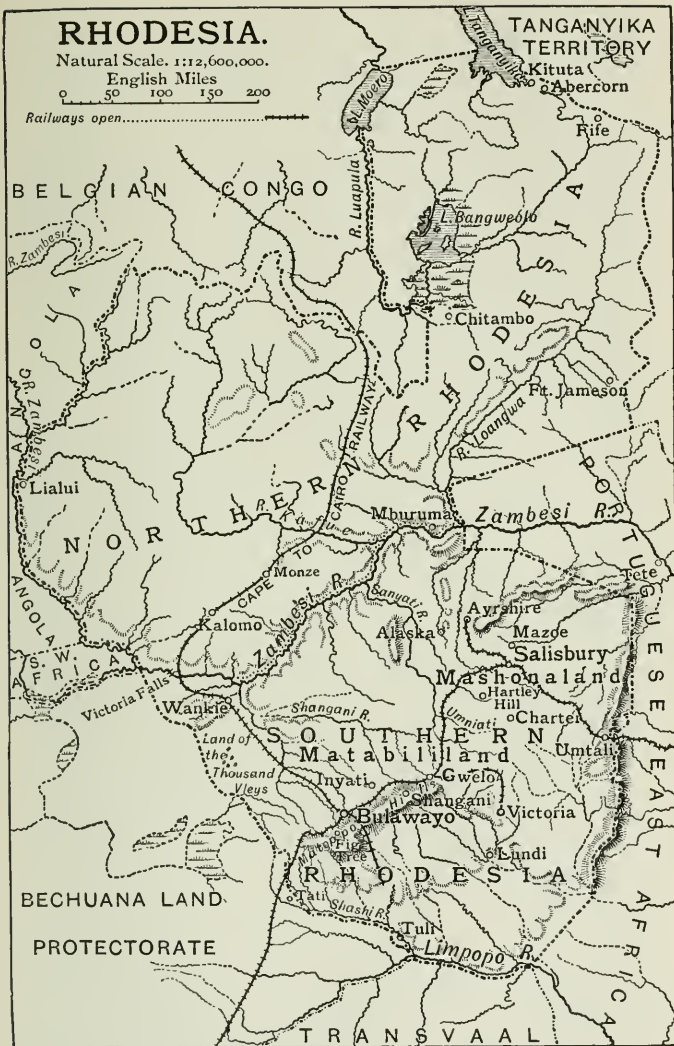
RHODESIA.

Natural Scale. 1:12,600,000.

English Miles

0 50 100 150 200

Railways open.....→



Southern Rhodesia lies between the Zambezi and the Limpopo Rivers. Across it, from south-west to north-east, run the Rhodesian Highlands, a plateau that slopes away to the valleys of these two rivers. It spreads out into many ridges, and in the valleys between flow numerous rivers. Those on the seaward slopes of the plateau flow all the year round; but many of the others in the dry season shrink to strings of pools. The chief rivers, flowing to the sea from the plateau, are the Sabi and the Pungwe.

Northern Rhodesia is bounded on the north by the Congo-Zambezi divide. The greatest feeders of the Zambezi are the Kafue and the Loangwa.

The Victoria Falls on the Zambezi are one of the wonders of the world. The river, about a mile wide, plunges over a rocky edge and falls about four hundred feet. When the spray blows aside, one looks down into a deep black trench where stretches of white, foaming waters tumble and rage in their hurry to escape through the narrow, rocky gateway that is their only outlet. From below, a great cloud of white mist steams up and floats many hundred feet overhead. Scarlet aloes star the brown cliffs, and in some places ever-green forests and beautiful ferns grow to the edge of the gorge. Through its narrow doorway the river shoots out in a whirl of rushing waters. Here the deep river-bed is spanned by a graceful bridge, over which passes the Cape-to-Cairo Railway.

Rhodesia is in the tropics, and so the low-lying parts are unhealthy. Only the higher districts can be the home of the white man. On the highlands the climate is delightful, with sunny days and cool nights.

The country is well wooded, but there are no dense forests. Trees forming open forests are to be found to the north of Bulawayo and on some of the mountain slopes.



World's View, Matoppo, Rhodesia

In Northern Rhodesia they grow in the Loangwa valley and along the Congo-Zambezi divide. In the Shangani valley teak and mahogany grow, and are found very useful for furniture, building purposes, and railway sleepers.

Gold is found in many places in Southern Rhodesia, and some of the mines are very rich. At Wankie the coal-field yields a first-rate fuel, with good steam-raising and cooking qualities. Iron ore is also found in large quantities.

The best country for cattle is Matabeleland, the western part of Southern Rhodesia. The tsetse fly makes Northern Rhodesia useless for cattle-rearing, except in a few places. Maize grows well around Salisbury and down the Mazoe valley, and in Northern Rhodesia along the Kafue valley. While maize is the chief crop of the European farmers, the natives grow rice and Kaffir corn. Tobacco grows everywhere, most of it at present in Mashonaland, and citrus fruits thrive in the Mazoe valley. Maize, tobacco, and oranges are the chief exports. In Northern Rhodesia cotton and rubber are being grown.

Salisbury, the capital, was laid out in the year 1890. It is the centre of trade in the minerals and farm produce of Mashonaland. The largest and busiest town is Bulawayo, which means "The Place of Killing". Here stood the kraal of Lobengula, the son of Moselekatze. He was a cruel ruler and a murderer like his father. Not far away, in the Matoppo Hills, is the grave of Cecil Rhodes, from whom the country takes its name. Gwelo, Gatooma, and Umtali are mining and farming centres.

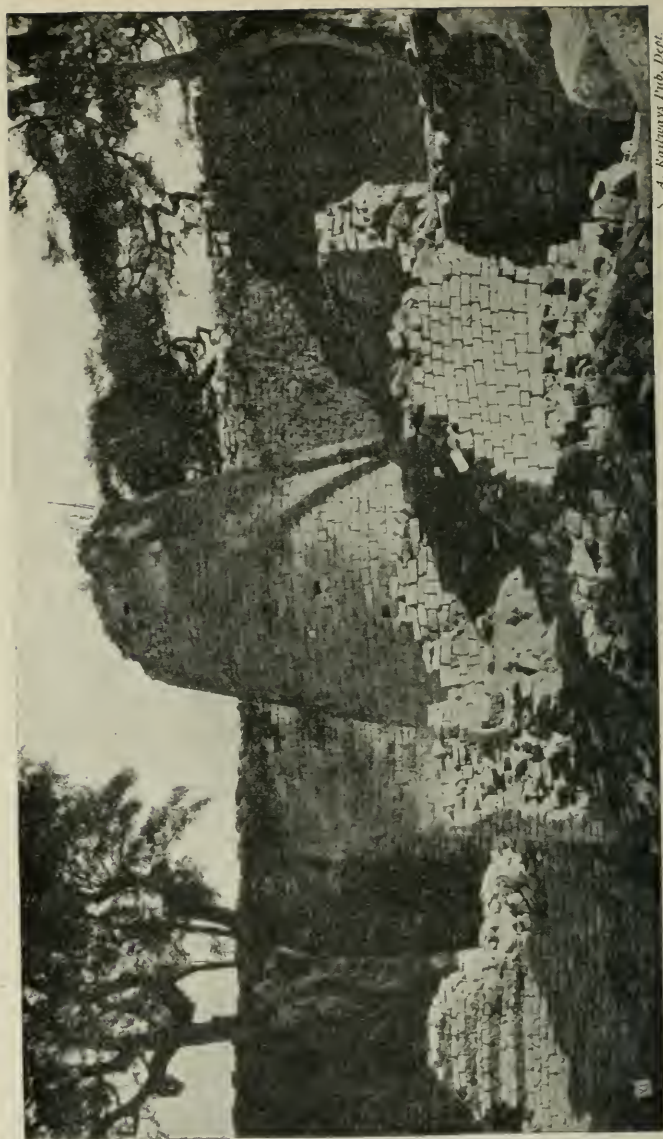
When the wild Zulus were driven north of the Limpopo, they found a home in Southern Rhodesia. There they tried to destroy the peaceable Mashonas and other tribes. The country was under the iron rule of Lobengula, and the people led most unhappy lives. No man walked in safety; but a

British force entered the country, defeated the Matabele army, and took the great kraal at Bulawayo. Lobengula fled, and died of fever in the Zambezi valley. Now, throughout this wide land, the natives lead peaceful lives and are becoming good farmers. On account of malarial fever, very few whites live in Northern Rhodesia, which is really a "black man's country". In Southern Rhodesia, the white population is to be found mostly on the Rhodesian plateau, along which runs the railway from Bulawayo to Salisbury.

The Secret of Rhodesia

At Zimbabwe, south from Salisbury and east of Bulawayo, are some of the most wonderful ruins in the world. Buried in the heart of Africa, they existed for hundreds of years unknown to Europeans. Who the builders were we know not; but they must have been a numerous people, for their buried cities are found scattered all over Southern Rhodesia. Now these ruined dwellings are to be found only beside old gold-workings; and so we are likely right in thinking that the lure of gold brought these men to this land. Their skill as miners, builders, and engineers shows them to have come from a race far above any of the natives of this country. From old Portuguese writers we learn that the Arab traders knew about these ruins, but only that they were very, very old; while the natives found in the country by the earliest Portuguese knew nothing whatever about the wonderful builders.

Zimbabwe was doubtless the capital and fortress of those who came in search of gold. The ruins cover the ground over an area about 2 miles long and more than a mile wide; and the whole seems to have formed a populous city of some size. But remains of walls are also to be found well outside this area. Three groups of ruins are to be seen within the



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Zimbabwe Ruins

thick main wall, which at some places was over 30 feet in height. The chief building is an oval-shaped temple, within which floors, steps, passages, and altars have been uncovered during the last twenty-five years. The temple also contains curious conical towers, which, like every part of the buildings, are built of stone blocks dressed and squared by the hammer, no mortar being used. Many remains have been found, such as bowls, statuettes, and gold ornaments finely worked. The city walls also enclose a granite kopje on which there seems to have been a fort, to which the dwellers could retire in time of great danger; while the rest of the dead city is spread along the "Valley of Ruins".

Many people think that the strangers came from Arabia, and that here is the "Land of Ophir" whence King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba drew their wealth. But no one really knows, and we can only guess how the old rock-miners disappeared. Very likely they were driven out by a savage enemy. But after the sudden flight, they are lost entirely. Not a single grave of the gold-seekers has been found. They have vanished utterly, without leaving even a name.

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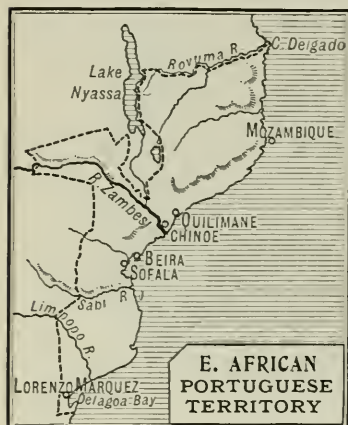
PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA

This country lies along the Indian Ocean. It is bounded in the south by Zululand, and in the north by the Rovuma River. The lower Zambezi River divides it into two parts that are nearly equal in size. In the west it is bounded by Nyasaland, Rhodesia, the Transvaal, and Swaziland.

The coastal belt is low, and the coast-line is of the same unbroken kind as we find in the other parts of Southern Africa. The Portuguese, however, came early to this

country; and so they were able to occupy most of the harbours used by the old Arab traders.

Delagoa Bay is the best harbour from Durban to the Red Sea. It is wide and deep. Also the Island of Inyack protects it, so that the largest vessels can lie at its wharves safe from storms. It gets a large share of the over-seas trade of the Transvaal; and the railway from Delagoa Bay to Johannesburg is the shortest and quickest road from the east coast



to the Rand. The town is named Lourenço Marques after the Portuguese sailor who explored the bay. The district grows large quantities of oil-seeds, timber, and tobacco. So the town is busy with factories, making soap and oil, furniture, and tobacco.

To the north of Delagoa Bay lies the mouth of the Limpopo River, which is useless as a harbour. Beyond that is Inhambane, a quiet and safe port for small vessels. This district is nearly all coastal belt, and its riches are the coco-nut and the sugar-cane. Following the coast-line are many lagoons, the home of the wild duck and the heron. At the lonely islands of Bazaruto there are pearl fisheries. Farther on is the mouth of the Sabi River with a small delta.

Next comes the forsaken harbour of Sofala. Here the Arabs of other days exchanged their gaudy silks, cottons, and beads for the gold brought by the natives. Later, the bay saw the Portuguese come with flying banners and clashing

arms. Soon Sofala rang with the cries of wailing slaves torn from their homes; and the Portuguese became rich from the trade in gold, ivory, and pearls. The entrance to the harbour is now blocked with sand, and Sofala's tale is told.

A few miles to the north of Sofala is Beira, at the mouth of the Pungwe River. This busy port is the sea gateway to Rhodesia, and it is growing more important every year. The land round is very fertile. Fields of maize, rice, and millet spread over the land, which also yields sugar, mangrove bark, copra, and ground-nuts for oil, mahogany and ebony timber. Near the Rhodesian border, gold is mined around Macequece.

The delta of the Zambezi is a gently rolling grass country. Of all the river mouths, the Chinde forms the best entrance; but even the Chinde is suitable only for small vessels. The whole of the delta is most unhealthy. Along the river valley at some places rubber, sugar, sisal fibre, rice, and maize are grown. Tete and Zumbo are small trading centres, which handle the products of the valley. Sena used to be a great centre for the slave traffic.

North of the Zambezi, the coast of Portuguese East Africa is still low-lying and marshy. Quilimane is a small but safe harbour at a river mouth, in a coastal belt which is very fertile. Here is the home of the coco-nut, and the products of the Zambezi valley thrive here also. Citrus fruits, paw-paws, guavas, bananas, mangoes, pineapples, and other fruits can be grown with success. The district of Mozambique has many good harbours. On the island of Mozambique there is a fine port well sheltered from storms.

Port Amelia stands on the shores of Pemba Bay, one of the finest harbours in the world. Its entrance is a mile and

a half wide; but inside the bay broadens out very much. Besides being large, this harbour is deep and well sheltered from storms. Beautiful Ibo, amongst palm-groves, is built on an island and was once a busy slave centre. But its harbour is not a good one, and can be used only by small vessels. These carry the oil-seeds, rubber, and ivory of the coast lands.

Inland from the coastal belt the country varies. At some places it is bush veld, at others dense forests grow. Here it is marshy; there it is spreading grass-land. The hill country lying back from the coastal plains has a pleasant climate for most of the year. The Gorongosa Mountains to the south of the Zambezi are about half as high again as Table Mountain at Cape Town. Great trees and jungles of tall, swaying bamboos cover their lower slopes, from which giant peaks tower upwards. To the north-east of the Zambezi, the Namuli Mountains form one of the finest highland regions in Southern Africa. The slopes are clothed with large trees, palms, tree-ferns, bamboos, and many kinds of shrubs and bushes; while, down the deep gorges everywhere, streams tumble and rush.

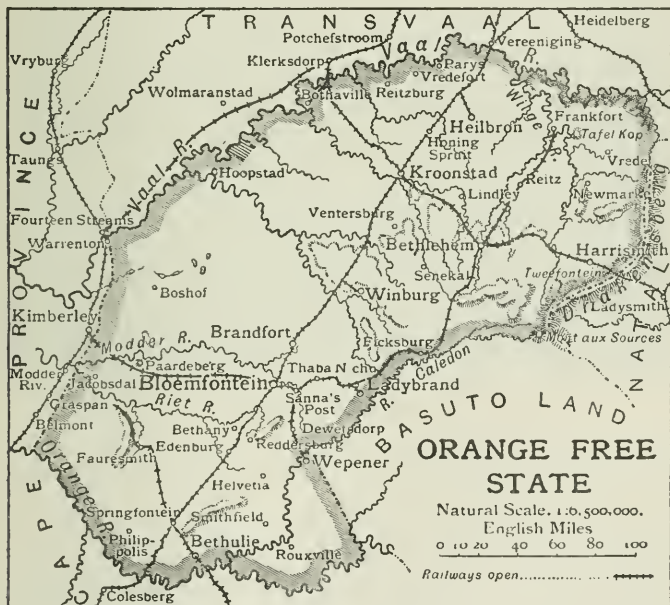
Away from the towns, the country is rich in wild animal life. Among the river reeds, orange and yellow weaver-birds chatter, and on lower branches the green diver sits watching the water below. Green parrots, purple pigeons, and rosy ring-doves flash through the woodlands. The vulture is always on the look-out for a meal, and the great fishing eagle with chocolate wings and white breast rends the air with his wild cries. The crocodile sleeps on sand-banks, or slips into the water when a boat comes along. The lazy hippopotamus lies in the leaf-covered marshes, and the buffalo hides in the rush-grown swamps. Bush-buck and water-buck are to be seen in many places, and the tiny

klipspringer performs great feats of jumping and balancing on the higher mountain slopes. The wart-hog, with its strong tusks, grubs for roots. Zebras and elephants feed in lonely green glades, and in many parts the lion is a terror to the natives.

34

ORANGE FREE STATE (I)

This province is a high inland plain, part of the great south-eastern highland region. It falls within the region



of summer rains. It is enclosed by the Orange River in the south, and the Vaal in the north-west and north. On its eastern side, it is bounded by the Drakensbergen and the

Caledon River. In the west, it borders upon Griqualand West and the dry lands.

The province is highest in the east, where it meets the Drakensbergen and Basutoland. Thence the land slopes northwards and westwards to the Vaal River. Flat, grassy plains stretch away for miles, with here a single kopje, and



The Veld, Orange Free State

S. A. Railways Pub. Dept.

there a long line of hills. The Klip and Wilge Rivers flow to the Vaal from the Drakensbergen in the north-east of the province. But from the Harrismith district several ranges of low mountains follow the eastern boundary southwards, namely, the Roode, Witte, Koranna, and Clocolan Bergen, and the Viervoet and Platberg. This line of heights is the watershed from the western slopes of which the Valsch, Vet and Zand, Modder and Riet Rivers flow to the Vaal.

This same watershed bounds the western side of the Caledon, which from its birthplace in the Mount of Sources flows southwards to join the Orange.

The country gets a fair amount of rain, the east much more than the west. The summers are fine, and the winters not too cold. In every way, the Orange Free



Tobacco Field, near Parys

Mr. J. Oosthuizen.

State has one of the finest climates in the world. The summer rains, however, usually come as thunder-storms; and this makes the flow of water in the rivers very uneven, and so the rivers cut out deep channels. During the dry winter season, each river becomes a string of pools which are sometimes joined by a trickling stream. When the heavy summer torrents of rain fall, the rivers, fed by thousands of spruits, come down in flood. Then many a life is lost at the drifts, when travellers try to cross the rising waters.

Also, the farmers are left the poorer by stock and crops swept away in the rushing floods, which overflow the river banks and sweep the valley flats.

The great plains and rolling waves of land are mostly bare of trees. *Mimosas* and willows are to be found along the river banks and beside dams; and in the summer season great patches of mealies dot the wide veld, more especially in the north and east. Kaffir corn and oats also yield good harvests, and the potato crop is large. Wheat is grown in the districts bordering Basutoland. Cattle and sheep thrive all over the province, and in the south-west large flocks of goats are reared. Horses, mules, donkeys, and pigs all do well. Bacon factories, cheese factories, and creameries are numerous.

35

ORANGE FREE STATE (II)

Towns and Trade

The chief towns are usually named after their districts, and are all farming centres. The districts into which the State is divided differ very much in size.

The Bloemfontein district is very flat. Here and there kopjes stand out, but they are of no great height. The land is drained by the Modder, Riet, and Kaffir Rivers with their many tributaries. The district is excellent for stock of all kinds. Where water can be got for irrigation, the fertile ground gives big crops of grain and fruit. Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State, is well laid out, and has broad streets. Brandfort, Reddersburg, and Dewetsdorp are small farming centres.

Winburg is the oldest town in the province. Not far from here, the Voortrekkers defeated Moselekatze, hence



S. A. Katsenys Pub. Dept.

Bloemfontein

the name Winburg. The town was laid out in the year 1837. Ventersburg is a small trading centre in the same district.

Girt by low hills, Kroonstad stands on the Valsch River. It is a busy centre of trade, being the meeting-place of four railway lines, and the chief town of a rich farming district. It is a favourite resort of holiday-makers. This growing town is the second largest in the province. In the west of the district is Bothaville, a small farming centre. Coal is mined at Vierfontein. Cattle and sheep thrive, and mealies grow well in the Vredefort district. Also, tobacco is grown along the Vaal River. Vredefort town is a small trading centre. Parys is a well-known holiday resort on the Vaal River, which here is very beautiful. Much of the land near the town is irrigated and gives large crops of fruit.

Frankfort, Heilbron, and Vrede are centres of trade. Coal is mined in Heilbron district at Viljoen's Drift and Coalbrook. Vrede is hilly and well watered. Frankfort and Heilbron cover flatter country, with scattered randjes and kopjes. The most mountainous district is Harrismith. The town, which is the third largest in the province, lies near the Natal border. It is an important trading centre and a health resort. Cattle and sheep thrive in the Lindley district, through which the Valsch River flows. There are many rich farms in the Bethlehem district, in which the Valsch River rises. Bethlehem and Reitz trade in sheep and grain. Bethlehem is also a busy railway centre.

Senekal trades in wool and grain. A good part of Thaba N'chu is covered by the mountain which gives its name to the district. At its foot is the thriving town of the same name. Mountain ranges overrun the district of Ficksburg, which borders on Basutoland. Cattle and sheep graze in the fertile valleys, and on the slopes; and wheat and maize are grown. The town is prettily situated. Fouriesberg,



Valsch River, Kroonstad

S. A. Railways Pub. Dept.

a small town high up on the Wittebergen, trades with Basutoland.

Ladybrand is a mountainous district which looks across the Caledon River to Basutoland. Fertile ground and a good rainfall give large crops of wheat, oats, barley, mealies, potatoes, and fruit. Wepener is named after a leader of the Boers, who was killed in the Basuto War of the year 1866. The district is very mountainous. The town, which stands on the Caledon River, does much trade with the Basutos. Grain and wool are the chief products of this district, and of Edenburg.

Smithfield takes its name from Sir Harry Smith. The town, one of the oldest in the province, stands on the Caledon River in a wool district. Rouxville and Zastron are small towns which trade in the cattle and corn of Rouxville district. In Bethulie district the veld is very flat, there being few randjes or kopjes. Cattle and sheep are reared, and maize is the chief crop. Bethulie town stands near the meeting-place of the Caledon and Orange Rivers.

Much of the western part of the Free State is flat and dry. Here the farmer depends, not on crops, but on flocks and herds. Hoopstad district has no mountains, only small randjes being seen here and there. Hoopstad and Bultfontein are farming centres. Boshof is the second largest district in the province. It is nearly all flat grass-land, which supports cattle and sheep. Boshof town is the only one in the district. Jacobsdal, like Boshof, is a district of plains and flocks and herds. Much of the Fauresmith district is also very flat. In all parts of it sheep thrive; and diamonds are mined at Jagersfontein and Koffyfontein. Philipolis rears sheep and goats. Springfontein is an important railway junction.

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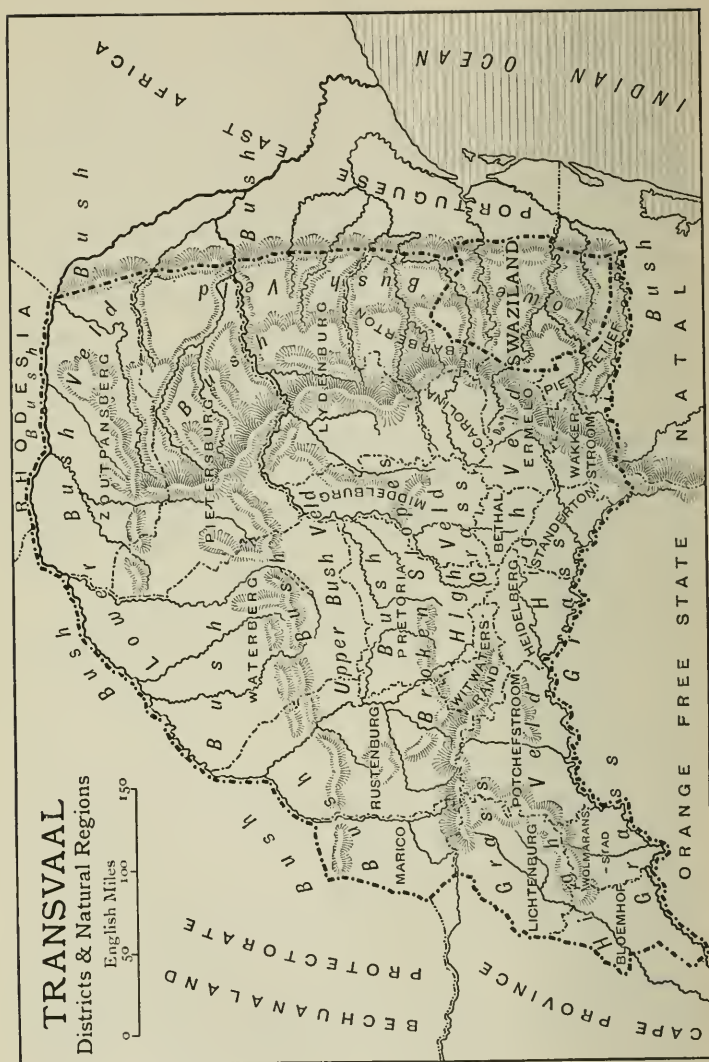
THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCE (I)

This is an inland province. It is bounded on the west and north by the Limpopo River, on the east by the low line of the Lebombo Mountains, on the south by the Vaal River. In the west it meets Bechuanaland; in the north, Rhodesia; in the east, Portuguese East Africa; in the south, the Orange Free State. The southern region of the Transvaal is part of the High Veld. It is made up mostly of rolling grassy plains and low hills. But if, starting say from Pretoria, we travel north to the Limpopo, or eastwards to Portuguese country, we see very different kinds of scenery. After leaving the High Veld we would pass down through sloping, broken, mountainous country with beautiful valleys. Then we would come to more flat, low-lying country with trees and bush.

So there are different regions in the Transvaal:

1. The Mountain Region: The Drakensbergen and the Mist Belt.
2. The High Veld.
3. The Middle Veld:
 - (a) Slopes or Banken;
 - (b) The Upper Bush Veld.
4. The Limpopo Highlands.
5. The Low Veld or Lower Bush Veld.

Although these regions do not all get the same amount of rain, you must remember that the whole of the Transvaal Province is in the Region of Summer Rains.



The Drakensbergen

The highest land in the Transvaal is to be found in the Drakensbergen, which are continued northwards from Majuba Hill as far as the Olifants River. The range drops in height when it enters the Transvaal; but it rises again in Mount Anderson and the Mauchberg to over 7000 feet. On its westward side it slopes down to the High Veld. But in the Barberton and Lydenburg districts the eastern face is a huge rocky cliff. From its sharp edge one looks out over the Low Veld three thousand feet below. The scenery is of the grandest description. From beneath one's feet a sea of hills and valleys and bush country stretches away to the east.

The Mist Belt

The Mist Belt runs along the top and the eastern side of the Drakensbergen. It is so called because the mountains catch the mist-clouds that come inland from the Indian Ocean. These mists are very common, and thus it is a well-watered region. The sea-facing slopes have fine patches of big trees. These forests are known as "wood-bushes". They used to supply all the wagon-wood needed by the settlers in the Transvaal, and most of the timber required for houses. The yellow-wood trees were used in building the farmhouses; furniture was made from the stink-wood; white pear, hard pear, and iron-wood were cut down to make wagons. So these forests began to get used up; but care is now taken of the trees, which are looked after by white "rangers" who are helped by native police. The land between the wood-bushes is covered with grass, which affords good pasture for horses and cattle.

The High Veld

This region covers the most of the Southern Transvaal. It is the northern end of the great South-Eastern Highland Region of South Africa. Nowhere under 4000 feet, it covers less than half of the province. It extends from the Drakensbergen all the way to the western boundary of the province, and from the borders of the Orange Free State to the Magaliesbergen on the north. More correctly, its northern edge is got by drawing a line from the western boundary of the Transvaal near Mafeking to Pretoria, and thence to Pilgrim's Rest near Lydenburg.

The High Veld generally is a bare, wind-swept region. It consists of rolling plains, mostly treeless and covered with grass. These crest waves of land are known usually as "bults", and are separated by low-lying "laagtes" and "vleis", which collect water in the rainy season. There are few hills and valleys except on the inland sides of the Drakensbergen. The west differs somewhat in surface appearance from the east. While bults and vleis make up most of the country in both parts, the west is crossed in addition by long lines of low, stony hills known as "rands".

The highest part of the High Veld is its eastern edge. This is formed by the Drakensbergen, which here rise in Mount Anderson to a height of 7490 feet, and Mauchberg, 7350 feet. From this long crest of mountain land the High Veld slopes gradually downwards to the west. Also it has a "backbone" that runs across it from east to west, from the Ermelo district through Johannesburg on to the western boundary of the province. This backbone is mostly from 5000 to 6000 feet above sea-level, but sinks below 5000 feet in the west. It is not a range of mountains, but rather a broad belt of ridges and rands which crosses the

High Veld. The well-known Witwatersrand is part of it. This line of high land gives the High Veld two distinct slopes, one to the north, the other to the south. Down the northern slope run the streams whose waters feed the Limpopo and in time reach the Indian Ocean. Down the southern slope flow the tributaries of the Vaal, which thus



High Veld

Dr. J. B. Pole Evans

find their way into the Orange River and finally into the Atlantic. So you see the backbone of the High Veld is a great watershed. This watershed passes through Johannesburg. The chief feeders of the Limpopo from east to west are: the Steelpoort, Little Olifants, Olifants, Elands, Aapies, Crocodile (or Limpopo), and Marico Rivers. To the Vaal, which rises in the Ermelo district, flow Kaffir Spruit, Klip River, Mooi River, Bamboos Spruit, and other smaller streams.

In summer the eastern part gets a fairly good rainfall,

but in the west less rain falls. Winter is the dry season. When rain does come it falls as heavy thunder-showers. So there is not much running water on the High Veld, except in the rivers that are fed by the many springs to be found on both slopes of the watershed. In the rainy summer season the rivers are often in flood. At such times great damage may be done to crops and to flocks and herds; and people sometimes lose their lives trying to cross the swollen rivers at "drifts", or crossing-places, that are quite safe at other times. During the dry winter season many of the smaller rivers and streams become strings of pools. In the east, in many parts, there are flat basins known as "pans". The largest of these is Lake Chrissie. Some of these pans hold water all the year round. In the west, however, few pans are to be seen, except in the south-west corner.

Native trees are rare. Thorn trees, sugar bushes, mimosas, and willows are to be found beside rivers and dams. Blue gums, pines, and wattles are grown in plantations to supply mine timber. Mealies, Kaffir corn, and potatoes are the chief crops grown. Vegetables and lucerne thrive where water can be got. Peaches do well in most parts; apples, pears, and cherries in many places. The east is the best part of the High Veld for stock-raising; here horses and merino sheep thrive well, and it is a good cattle country. In the west the Angora goat thrives, but not the merino sheep; cattle do well, as also horses, except that in the summer horse-sickness causes much loss. Herds of springbok are kept on some farms; but, except for these and various birds, few wild creatures are to be seen.

More white people have made their homes on the High Veld than in other parts of the Transvaal. There are two reasons for this. In the first place, the climate is healthy

for Europeans. Secondly, the gold-, coal-, and diamond-mines provide work for many people. The natives come in large numbers to work in the mines; but they do not like the cold winters. Their homes are in the warmer Middle and Low Veld Regions.

The High Veld Districts are: Wakkerstroom, Ermelo, Carolina; Standerton, Bethal; the higher western portions of Lydenburg; the central and southern portions of Middelburg; Witwatersrand, Heidelberg, Potchefstroom, Bloemhof, Wolmaranstad, Lichtenburg; the southern parts of Marico and Rustenburg; and the part of the Pretoria district that lies to the south of the Magaliesbergen.

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THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCE (II)

The Middle Veld

The Middle Veld lies mostly between the High Veld and the Limpopo Highlands.

From the line of the Magaliesbergen, the northern edge of the High Veld, slopes or banken fall gently away to the north in steps or terraces. These sink to the valleys of the Crocodile, Olifants, and Steelpoort Rivers and their feeders. These steps have been much cut up by rivers, and at such places one finds beautiful scenery. Each terrace is "held up" by a low range of hills. Through these ranges the rivers break at gaps called "poorts", which are very common in the Middle Veld.

To the north of the "Banken" lies the Upper Bush Veld, which stretches across the Transvaal from Marico to Lydenburg. On the north, it is bounded by the Waterberg and Pietersburg Highlands. The Drakensbergen enclose it on

the east. Westwards it melts into the Kalahari and the Low Veld of the Limpopo valley. Its timber trees are of small size and little value; but the naboom and various kinds of acacias and aloes are common. Some of the plants can supply fibre, others oil; and there are grasses that can be used for paper-making.



The central part of the Upper Bush Veld is known as the Springbok Flats. It is a stretch of level country nearly 100 miles long. Most of it is unoccupied except by natives, who are to be found near water. It gets little rain, and water is scarce. Now, however, water is got by boring, and settlers are beginning to farm here. It is excellent cattle country; and, in seasons of good rainfall, the settlers raise heavy crops of maize and Kaffir corn.

Most of the Middle Veld is healthy for white people;

but malaria appears in the lower river valleys. It is a deadly region for horses in the summer, and cattle are scarce in many districts owing to east-coast fever. But it is a fine cattle country where "dipping" is done, much of the grass-land being what is known as "sweet veld". Merino sheep do not thrive here. Owing to the cold winter nights and severe frosts, much of this region is unsuited for crops that can be raised in the Low Veld. In sheltered places and on the lower slopes, oranges, pineapples, and tropical fruits can be grown. Maize and Kaffir corn grow well when the rainfall is favourable. In Rustenburg and Marico districts the farmers reap fine crops of tobacco, cotton, oranges, and naartjes. The Middle Veld is cooler than the Low Veld, and warmer than the High Veld, and it can produce some of the crops that thrive in either of these other two regions. It is the home of fewer white people than are to be found on the High Veld. A narrow broken belt of country that is also a region of slopes or bankens runs along the eastern side of the Drakensbergen from Olifants River to Wakkerstroom. It is a country of foothills and valleys, and it is well watered by clear running brooks and streams. It passes through Lydenburg, Barberton, Piet Retief, and Swaziland.

The Limpopo Highlands

The Limpopo Highlands occupy part of the Waterberg, Pietersburg, and Zoutpansberg districts. The rest of these districts lie in the low bush country in the valleys of the Limpopo and its feeders. This broken belt of high land stretches across the north-west part of the province, and separates the Upper from the Lower Bush Veld in the north and west of the province.

The Waterberg Highlands are very hilly, rugged country.

The chief mountain ranges are the Zand River Bergen, Bads Bergen, and Rooi Bergen. The sandy valley flats are covered with grass, and this region of sand veld is becoming a cattle country. Wheat, maize, oats, cotton, and tobacco, oranges and naartjes all grow well; but malarial fever is a danger in some parts.

The Pietersburg Highlands consist mostly of flat rolling country, which is like the High Veld. To the north this grass veld slopes into the thorn bush of the low Limpopo River valley, and in the south it falls away to the Upper Bush Veld. Cattle are reared, and mealies, Kaffir corn, and tobacco grow well. The Wood Bush Mountain, a notable place, is covered with forest. It is really part of the Drakensbergen, which run on across the Olifants River through the Pietersberg and Zoutpansberg districts. The Murchison Range strikes off to the east.

The Zoutpansbergen occupy the northern end of the Limpopo Highlands. Here are the famous Magato Mountains, which were a fortress of the Kaffirs for a long time after the Boers came to this district. The mountain slopes of the Zoutpansbergen are clothed with trees in many places; and here may be seen the mighty baobab, the elephant of the tree world. The lion still roars in this part of the Transvaal; and baboons, jackals, and wild cats are numerous. Maize, Kaffir corn, and tobacco are grown. Many natives inhabit the valleys and kloofs among the mountains.

The Low Veld or Lower Bush Veld

The name Bush Veld is given chiefly to the low-lying eastern part of the province. It lies along the Portuguese border, and is really the same sort of country as much of Portuguese East Africa. But similar country follows the

Limpopo River valley all the way round its great northern bend.

The Low Veld differs in many ways from the High Veld. Instead of great, treeless, grassy waves of land, the Low Veld is mostly a flat country covered with shrubs and thorn trees which often form dense thickets. Hence it is sometimes called the "Bush Veld". Most of the trees, however, are crooked and of little use. Between the trees and bushes there is plenty of tall grass. At some places, the surface consists of sloping grass-land; at others occur stony ridges and granite kopjes.

Less rain falls than on the High Veld; and the nearer one goes to the Portuguese border and the Limpopo River, the drier does the country become, and the more sandy is the soil. Rivers, flowing from the Drakensbergen slopes and the Limpopo Highlands, cross this region on their way to the Limpopo. But, towards the end of the winter, they sometimes dry up before reaching that river, which also is known to stop running in its upper course during a very dry winter, and become a string of pools. The eastern Low Veld, crossed by rivers flowing into Delagoa Bay, is less dry than the Limpopo valley. As on the High Veld, rain falls mostly as thunder-showers. These torrents rush off quickly, and leave dry river-beds with here and there green pools. Such "dry rivers" as they are called are common in the Low Veld.

It is a region of warm days and cool nights; but the summers are very hot, and few white people have made their homes here on account of malarial fever. The pasture is good, but farm stock suffers. It is difficult to rear horses and cattle, on account of horse-sickness and east-coast fever. In the healthy winter season, however, the High Veld farmers trek down here with their stock. It is the home of

large numbers of natives, who dislike the cooler climate of the High Veld.

Many crops grow well in the Low Veld; but, as the white population is small, very little of the land is under cultivation. The natives do little farming, being content to grow small patches of mealies, Kaffir corn, water-melons, and to rear some goats and thick-tailed sheep. But the white farmers grow excellent maize, tobacco, and many sorts of fruit and vegetables, chiefly oranges, naartjes, lemons, bananas, pine-apples, melons, figs, tomatoes. Cotton and sugar-cane also are grown.

Game is plentiful. If you wish to get a good idea of the Eastern Low Veld and its wild animals you should read *Jock of the Bush Veld*. All kinds of buck are to be seen. The crocodile and the hippopotamus are still to be found in the rivers. Lions, elephants, giraffes, and many other wild animals are kept in the Sabi Reserve to the north of the Delagoa Bay line. Monkeys live in some places, and deadly snakes are common. Mosquitoes breed on the river pools. Locusts abound and do much damage to crops.

The Low Veld districts are: the eastern parts of Swaziland, Piet Retief, Barberton, Lydenburg, Zoutpansberg, and Pietersburg; and the parts of Zoutpansberg and Waterberg lying along the Limpopo River.

(This bush belt runs on from Swaziland into Zululand.)



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Union Buildings, Pretoria

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THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCE (III)—DISTRICTS
AND TOWNS

(1) Pretoria District

When the various groups of Boer trekkers between the Vaal and the Limpopo united to form one State, there was need of a central place for the chief town, and Martinus Wessels Pretorius offered a farm for this purpose. It was accepted gladly by the Volksraad, and it was named "Pretoria" after the giver, who became the first President of the new Transvaal State. He was a son of the famous Andries Pretorius, who broke and scattered the forces of Dingaan at the battle of Blood River in the year 1838.

Pretoria is the most central of all the districts. It is bounded almost by the Crocodile River, with its feeder the Aapies, and by the Wilge and Elands Rivers, feeders of the Olifants.

Its southern parts rest on the northern slopes of the High Veld; and the northern parts enter the Upper Bush Veld. Much of it is hilly except in the north. From west to east, almost in the middle of the district, run three parallel ranges of hills—the Magaliesbergen, the Daspoort, and the Skurwebergen. The valleys between the hills contain rich farming land, and since the rivers flow to the north they have to break through the lines of hills at openings called poorts. Through these, and also over many "neks", pass the roads leading northwards. Mealies, tobacco, fruit, and cattle are the chief farm products of the district.



The town of Pretoria, girt with kopjes, lies in the upper valley of the Aapies River. Here are the fine Union Buildings, where most of the business of the Union Government is carried on. They are the grandest pile of buildings in Southern Africa, and Pretoria also has colleges and many schools. Large railway works employ many men; and there are, besides, iron-works, the iron ore being found in the town lands. The cement-works of Pretoria are well known all over Southern Africa; and the lime and shale, necessary for making cement, are found in the district. About 25 miles to the east of Pretoria is the famous Premier Diamond Mine, and the cutting of diamonds is one of the smaller industries of Pretoria. Another industry in the town is the extraction of oil from the seeds of cotton grown in the Transvaal. Here also is the Mint where our coins are to be made.

At Hatherley, not far from the town, there is a glass-factory for the making of bottles; and there is a tannery and shoe-factory at Silverton. At Olifantsfontein, on the railway line between Pretoria and Johannesburg, clay is found, and so there are pottery works, where many drain-pipes, tiles, and jars are made, and also a little crockery. Near the southern boundary, at Modderfontein, there are large works for the making of dynamite, which is needed in mining, road-making, farming, and other work.

(2) Middleburg District

This district lies in the basin of the Olifantsfontein River. Like Pretoria, it runs northwards from the High Veld down through the Banken Veld into the Upper Bush Veld. In the west it is bounded by the Olifants River, in the east and north by the Steenkamps Bergen and the Lulu Bergen. Across the middle of the district run Botha's Bergen. So the district has different kinds of climate and scenery.

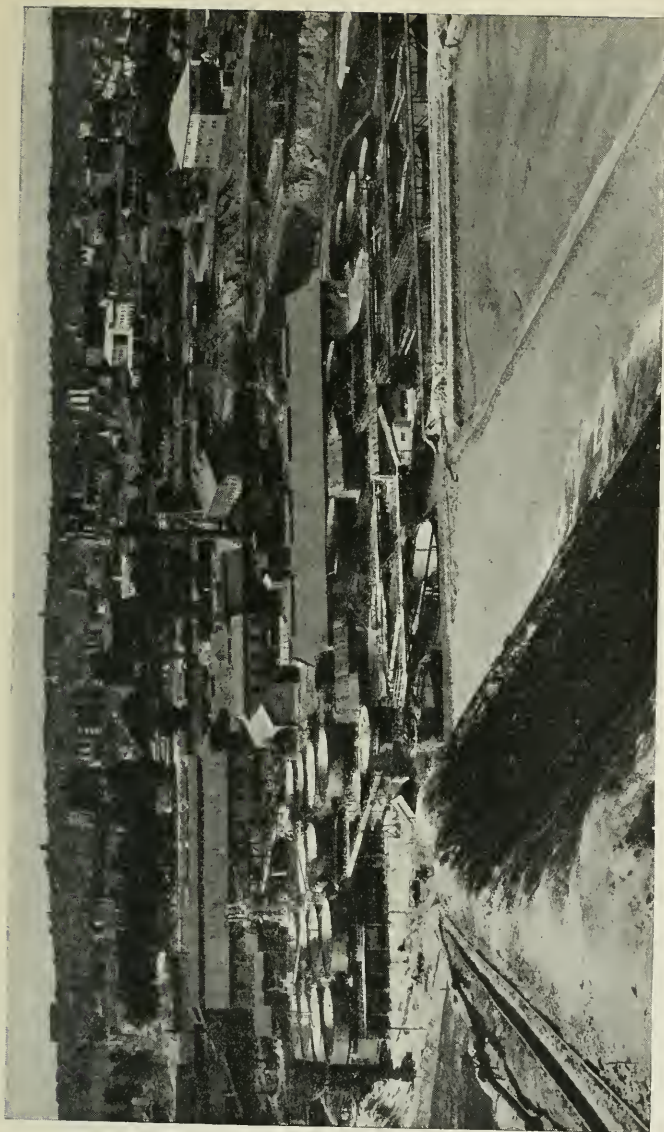
The southern part lies on the High Veld. Stock thrives here, and mealies, wheats, oats, and manna grow well. The town of Middelburg is on the Pretoria-Delagoa railway line, and it is noted for its coal. Also, it is a busy farming centre, with tanning and leather works. The coal-mines at Witbank farther west are also well known. At Vaal-krantz, near Middelburg, there is good clay from which drain-pipes and bricks are made.

In the "banken" and bush regions grain grows well, and timber and water are plentiful. Stock is taken in the winter time to the Bush Veld, where the remains of herds of springbok and blesbok are still to be found. Roos Senekal is a small village, named after two leaders of the Dutch who were killed in the Kaffir wars of 1884. The northern parts of the district supply much native labour for work on the coal-mines.

(3) The Witwatersrand—The Region of Industry

This region of the Transvaal lies on both sides, north and south, of the watershed that separates the streams and rivers that flow into the Indian Ocean from those that flow into the Atlantic. The great watershed passes through the middle of Johannesburg, so that when rain falls in this town some of it finds its way northwards to the Limpopo and so into the Indian Ocean, and the rest of it southwards by the Vaal and Orange River into the Atlantic. Many years ago this region was only a saddle of grass-land and stony kopjes, where lions made it far from easy to keep stock, and trekkers were often stopped by great herds of buck crossing the roads.

Now it is a region of mines and towns, which have all



Johannesburg from the Ferreira Mine

“ gold ” towns. In the West Rand, Krugersdorp is the largest town, other mining centres there being Randfontein, Roodepoort, Florida, and Maraisburg. In the East Rand are Germiston, Boksburg, Benoni, Brakpan, and Springs. All are busy towns whose well-being depends on the ‘ life ’ of the mines around them. Germiston is further a great railway centre, for here meet “ trunk ” lines from all parts. At Germiston also, many men are employed in making concrete into pipes and tanks of all sorts, watering-troughs for stock, fencing-posts, and many other things. Near Germiston is Delmore with its factory, making soap, candles, and sheep-dip. Farther to the east at Dunswart are iron- and steel-works.

Built on hills, Johannesburg is the centre of this, the largest industrial region in Southern Africa. The town was laid out in the year 1886, but gold had been found a few years earlier. In the first year of its life the town contained some fifty people; but in the next year this number had grown to about three thousand, and now it is the largest town in Southern Africa. It received its name in honour of Johannes Rissik, the surveyor who laid out the town. When the “ gold rush ” came, men lived in tented wagons and canvas huts. Then came iron buildings, which in turn were replaced by brick stores and houses. But now, in less than forty years, gold has built a great city with busy streets and beautiful buildings of stone. The city also has a great university and many fine schools, and its hospital is the largest in Southern Africa.

Besides being the greatest gold-mining town in the world, Johannesburg is a large trade centre, where goods are received from and sent out to all parts of the country. It is also a town of industries. In order to feed the many workers on the Rand, the town has factories for the making of food-

stuffs such as bacon and ham, macaroni, biscuits, and maize products such as mealie meal, flour, and rice. Many men are engaged in engineering works, and in metal-working of all sorts. Here, at the first spinning-works in South Africa, sisal fibre of Natal is made into many kinds of rope and cordage. The making of furniture, leather goods, and toys gives work to many people. Furs are also made from South African as well as Canadian skins.

On both sides of the gold reef, dairy-farming and the growing of fruit and vegetables are largely carried on to supply the many people gathered together in the towns. The northern slopes of the watershed, being more sheltered from the cold southern winds at blossoming time, are better for fruit-farming, and here one sees many orchards.

To the north of Krugersdorp lies the cradle of the Crocodile River, the head-stream of the Limpopo. Here running water, deep soil, warm nooks, and "sweet veld" make this corner of the Witwatersrand one of the most fertile spots on the High Veld; and the Hekpoort valley grows wonderful crops of fruit and tobacco.

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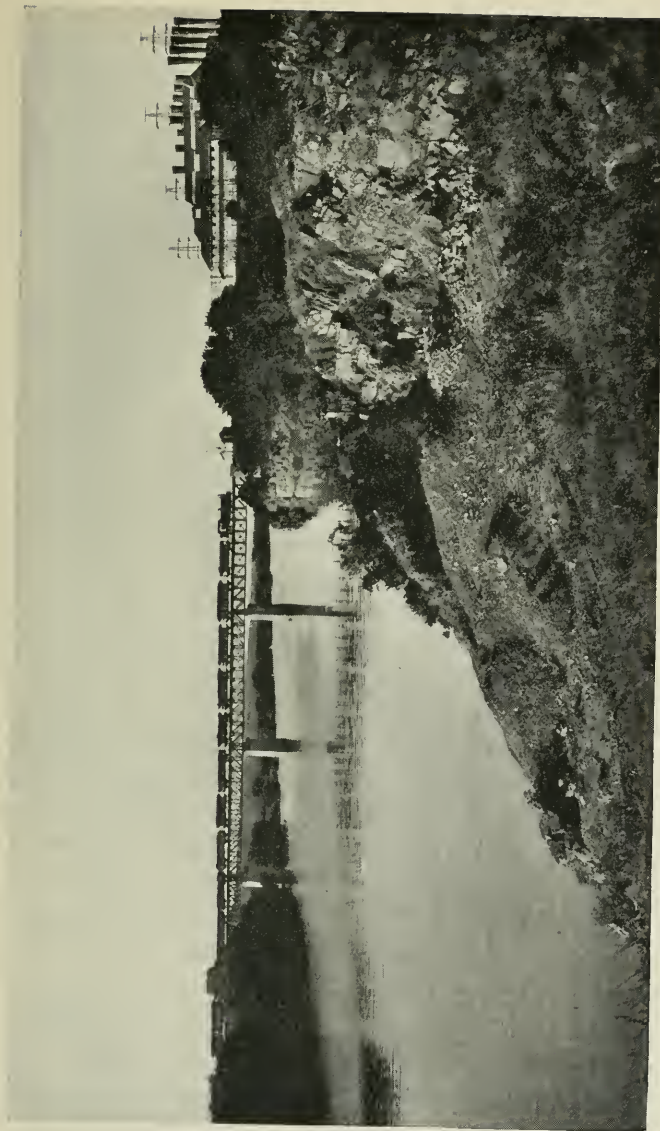
THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCE (IV)

(4) Heidelberg, Bethal, and Standerton

The **Heidelberg** district is bounded on the north by the Witwatersrand and Pretoria districts, and on the south by the Vaal River. The whole district slopes gently towards the south; and so all streams and rivers empty into the Vaal, the chief being the Klip and the Zuikerbosch Rand Rivers. The surface is made up mostly of great waves of grass-land,

crossed at places by lines of low hills, the chief of which are the Zuikerbosch Rand in the centre and the east, the Gats Rand on the west, and the fringe of the Witwatersrand in the north. Grain and potatoes are grown in most parts, and there are orchards to supply with fruit the markets of the Rand. Cattle, sheep, and horses are reared. Heidelberg, the chief town, is situated about the middle of the district on the railway from Johannesburg to Durban. It is a great farming centre. Greylingstad in the south-east, amongst the Roode Koppen, is a small trading village. Gold is mined at Nigel to the north of Heidelberg town. Vereeniging stands on the Vaal, at the place where the railway from Cape Town to Johannesburg crosses the river. It is a very busy place. Coal is mined here, and there are large iron- and steel-works. A large mill also is busy turning maize into mealie meal, flour, and oil. Close to the town, excellent clay has been found, and this has given rise to large pottery works. Here also are the great works of the Victoria Falls Power Company, which makes electric power, and sends it along wires to Johannesburg, a distance of some 40 miles, to be used on the mines. To the north of Vereeniging is Meyerton, which is becoming the centre of a fruit-growing district.

The **Bethal** and **Standerton** districts lie to the east of Heidelberg, and they consist mostly of wide stretches of rolling grass-land with kopjes here and there. Trees are scarce. Both districts are noted for cattle and merino sheep, and mealies, oats, and manna are grown largely. Coal is also got at different places. The towns, Standerton and Bethal, are busy centres of trade.



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Vaal River at Vereeniging

(5) High Veld and Mountain

The district of Wakkerstroom lies in the south-east of the Transvaal Province. When the great Drakensbergen range enters this district from the south, it splits up into a number of scattered ranges known as the Versamelbergen, which turn sharply towards the east for some distance, and then run in a north-easterly direction. To the west of the Versamelbergen, the district is open grass-land with lonely hills and kopjes. The Versamelbergen have been deeply cut into by the head-streams of the Vaal, Buffalo, and Assegai Rivers. Eastwards from the mountains is a region of broken slopes which is partly Mist Belt. All kinds of stock thrive in the district, especially sheep. The winters, however, are often very cold, and the farmer must then try to trek to the Low Veld with his stock. Good harvests of maize are got, while oats and teff grass are grown for fodder. Coal and oil-shale have been found. Wakkerstroom, the oldest town, and Ameersfoort are farming centres. Volksrust, the busiest town, is on the railway from Johannesburg to Durban, and stands on the Natal border.

The Ermelo district lies to the north of Wakkerstroom. Most of the centre and west is rolling bare grass-land of the usual High Veld kind, and there are many pans of all sizes, the largest being Lake Chrissie. The eastern parts show scenery of a different kind. Here the surface of the country is very hilly, and the eastern slopes lead down into Swaziland. The valleys and kloofs shelter trees and bush of many kinds. Near the Klipstafel in the north-west of the district four large rivers rise, namely the Vaal, Olifants, Komati, and Usutu. Sheep, horses, and cattle thrive well. Mealies are largely grown, and good crops of Kaffir corn, oats, barley, and potatoes are got. Coal is abundant in the

district, and iron ore and building stone are also found. Ermelo and Amsterdam are trading towns.

(6) High Veld, Mountain, and Low Veld

The Komati River flows through the middle of the Carolina district, which shows different kinds of country. The north-eastern parts of the district drop down into the Low Veld region, where, with a warm climate, fruit and tobacco grow well. The Drakensbergen, though not very high here, can show fine mountain scenery at some places. The rest of the district is High Veld, where sheep, cattle, and horses thrive very well, and good crops of mealies, oats, and and barley are reaped. Carolina town is a small farming centre. At Warmbaths there are hot springs, while coal and iron are found in the district. The Pretoria-Delagoa railway passes along the northern boundary.

Lydenburg, a large district, lies between Middelburg and Portuguese East Africa. Like Carolina, it can boast of different kinds of scenery. The mountain region of the Drakensbergen runs through the middle of the district from the south towards the north, where it drops into the valley of the Olifants River, which bounds the district on the north. In this region is the highest land in the Transvaal Province, Mount Anderson and the Mauchberg being about 7500 feet above the level of the sea. Near Pilgrims' Rest and Sabi, gold is mined. Between the Drakensbergen and the Portuguese country lies the Bush Veld, which also spreads up the valley of the Olifants River along the northern part of the district. In this Bush Veld region, there are grown cotton, tobacco, citrus, and other kinds of fruit. The south-west is High Veld, and here the grain crops are good. Also coal is mined near Dullstroom and Belfast. The west of the district is mostly broken veld. At Magnet Heights, great

fields of iron ore have been found. Voortrekkers, in 1845, laid out the small town of Ohrigstad; but, because of malarial fever, they left it and settled on the Spekboom River at the spot where now stands Lydenburg (the "Town of Suffering").

(7) Slopes and Low Veld

The Barberton district lies to the south-east of Lydenburg, and borders on the Portuguese country. Much of it is therefore Low Veld. The west is a broken country of slopes. The Pretoria-Delagoa railway passes through the centre of the district; and the traveller from the High Veld cannot but notice the change from the treeless open country above, to the well-watered, warm, bushy lands of the Low Veld. For some distance the railway runs alongside the Crocodile River, and the two make their way through the Drakensbergen by a grand poort, with huge granite hills towering up on both sides. The railway enters Portuguese country at Komati Poort.

With abundant rivers and streams, the farmers are able to irrigate many acres of land, chiefly from the Crocodile River and its tributary the Kaap. Every year sees more land put under irrigation. With its warm climate, this district is famous for its fruit. Oranges, pineapples, paw-paws, mangoes, avocado pears are largely grown, along with tomatoes and other vegetables for the big markets. On the high lands not under irrigation, mealies and sweet potatoes, cotton and sugar-cane are grown with great success. In the east, on the lands watered by the big rivers the Komati and the Lomati, are large cattle ranches.

Nestling under great hills, the town of Barberton lies in the rich valley of the Kaap River, amidst scenery of great beauty. Trees and flowers in endless variety abound in the shady kloofs that cut into the hills around. The story



S. A. Kattawys Pub. Dept.

Near Barberton, East Transvaal

of Barberton dates from the year 1886, when a rich gold-mine was found close to the small village, which soon grew into the first gold town of the Transvaal. In 1887, however, the great gold rush to the far richer Rand made Johannesburg the leading centre for gold-mining in the country.

Piet Retief is a long, narrow district dividing Swaziland from Zululand. Oranges, tobacco, and mealies all grow well. Good crops of wheat are reaped on irrigated lands in the winter time. In several places there are hot springs, and also coal has been found. The western parts are mostly broken "slopes" country, and here the town of Piet Retief is the centre of a good stock district.

Swaziland

This is a native protectorate, which is not a district of the Transvaal but is under the care of Britain. It lies beside Piet Retief at the south-east corner of the Transvaal, and it borders on Portuguese East Africa, from which it is separated by the Lebombo Mountains. At one time the country was part of the Transvaal; but after the Boer War, at the request of the Swazi queen, it was brought under the protection of Britain.

The whole country is much broken up. The high-lying western part slopes down from the Drakensbergen, and the centre is covered with rolling hills. Both these parts are well watered and clothed with grass. The bushy eastern part lies in the Low Veld. All over, it is good grazing country. Cattle thrive in the valleys and lowlands, and sheep on the hills. In winter-time farmers trek here with sheep from the Transvaal and the Free State; for there are stretches of pasture-land, rich in winter grasses. Maize, Kaffir corn, cotton, tobacco, oranges, and peaches all grow

well. In the valleys and lowlands, however, malarial fever is a danger to human beings. Gold and tin have been found. Bremersdorp used to be the chief town; but now its place is taken by Mbabane, which is in a more healthy position.

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THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCE (V)

(8) The Western Districts—High Veld

Potchefstroom, a district of grassy plains and low, stony kopjes, lies to the south-west of the Witwatersrand. The land generally slopes southwards to the Vaal River, and the chief hills are the Gatsrand and Losberg in the east. The southern part is best watered, the two chief streams being the Mooi River and Schoon Spruit. Settlements have been laid out along the banks of these two rivers, from which a plentiful supply of water is got for irrigating crops. In the winter good crops of wheat, oats, and barley are raised on the irrigated lands, and in the summer tobacco, mealies, potatoes, and fruit. Lucerne thrives all the year round. On the dry veld, away from the rich river valleys, mealies and Kaffir corn grow well in wet summers, and cattle and sheep are reared in large numbers.

In the year 1837 the Voortrekkers under Potgieter settled at Witkopjiesfontein, about 8 miles from where Potchefstroom now stands; but in 1839 they removed to a new settlement, the present town, which they named after their leader. In 1858 Potchefstroom was made the capital of the new Transvaal Republic. It is the oldest town in the Transvaal and is very beautiful, with its wealth of running water and of trees, both so scarce on the High Veld. Along the side furrows of its streets run streams of sparkling

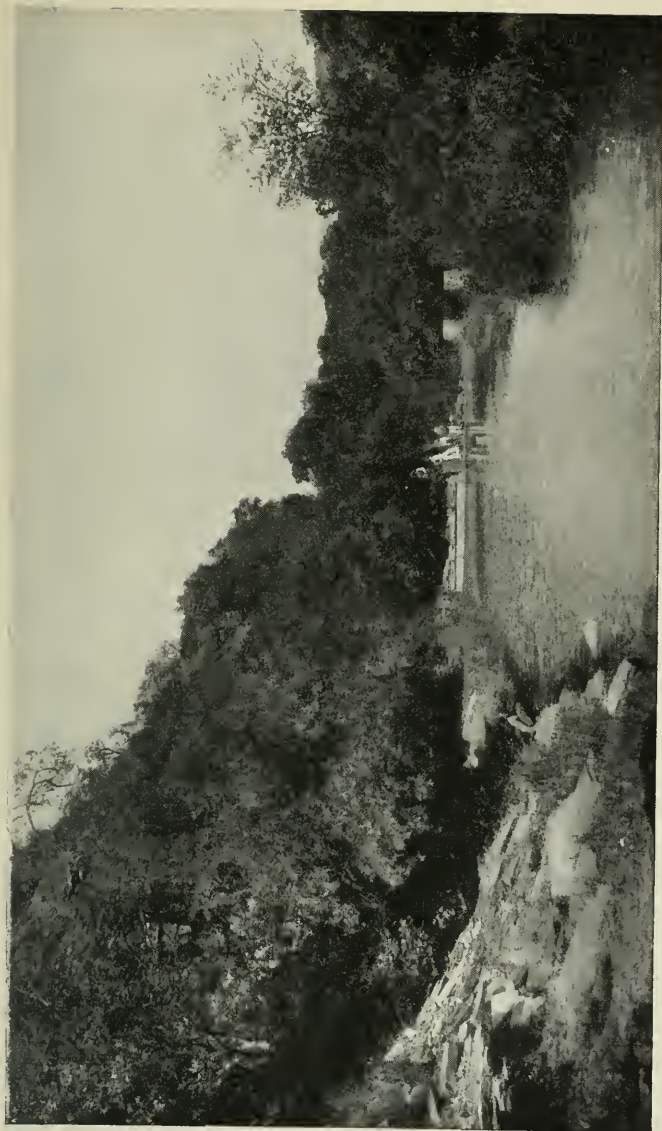
water, and everywhere tower lovely willow trees of great size. In its gardens and orchards, flowers and fruit abound. Its many schools and colleges make it a centre of education for the western Transvaal. Klerksdorp and Ventersdorp are farming towns. The former was once a mining centre, gold and coal being worked; but now these industries are almost dead.

Lichtenburg, Wolmaranstad, and Bloemhof districts occupy the south-west corner of the Transvaal Province. They are mostly grass veld crossed by stony ridges. Native trees are scarce; but, here and there, one finds belts of low thorn trees and shrubs. Towards the western border of the province the country is well covered with "vaalbosch", which provides good winter food for stock. This western part of the High Veld is much drier than the eastern, and so the chief industry is stock-raising, the country being well suited for cattle and Angora goats. Mealies, Kaffir corn, potatoes, and beans thrive in wet summers. Many people, in search of fortune, have been drawn to the "diamond diggings" on the Vaal River in the Bloemhof district. The chief towns, all farming centres, are named after the districts.

(9) High Veld, Slopes, and Bush Veld

Marico and Rustenburg stretch from the northern slopes of the High Veld down through broken country to the Bush Veld of the Limpopo valley.

Marico, the fertile land of green glades, is watered by the Groot Marico River, which forms the eastern boundary of the district, and by its many feeders, of which the largest is the Klein Marico. Its hills are the far ends of the Magaliesbergen and the Witwatersrand, which die out towards the



S. A. Anderson's L'ub Dept.

Marico River

west. In the higher and cooler south, where the land rises to the High Veld, sheep and cattle are reared. Amongst the many hills, mostly in the east, are fertile valleys where fruit grows in plenty. North of the Zeerust Hills the land is thickly wooded with mimosas and other native trees, and the Bush Veld is good cattle country.

Much of the district is well suited for crops of many kinds, chiefly wheat, rye, oats, barley, maize, cotton, tobacco, potatoes, and all sorts of fruit and vegetables. Marico is one of the best districts in South Africa for citrus-growing, and oranges, naartjes, and lemons thrive here. Lead and silver are found; and there are very old copper-mines, which were worked by people who lived in this country so long ago that we know nothing about them. Of great interest also are the huge caves at "Wondergat", near Otto's Hoop. Here the Matabele, under Moselekatze, made their last stand against the early Voortrekkers. Zeerust, the chief town, is beautifully situated in the valley of the Klein Marico. It nestles amongst trees and gardens at the foot of woody hills, and many people think it is the fairest town in the Transvaal.

Rustenburg lies between the Marico and the Pretoria districts. Like Marico, it slopes down from the edge of the High Veld to the Bush Veld of the upper Limpopo valley. This district can show many different kinds of scenery. The south and south-east are very hilly. Along the southern boundary runs the Witwatersrand; and the Magaliesbergen, entering at the south-east corner, curve to the north and run on into the heart of the district where are the Pilandsbergen. The district is watered by the Crocodile River, with its feeders the Magalies, Hex, and Elands.

The southern half of Rustenburg is one of the most

fertile parts of the Transvaal. Nearly all sorts of fruit and vegetables can be grown here, and the district is famous for its oranges, tobacco, and cotton. Here is good grazing for cattle in the higher parts, and in winter-time they thrive in the Bush Veld. Rustenburg is one of the oldest towns in the Transvaal. It stands at the foot of the Magaliesbergen near the Hex River, and at one time it was a meeting-place of the Volksraad.

(10) The Northern Districts

Each of the three districts, Waterberg, Zoutpansberg, and Pietersburg consists of Highlands and Bush Veld. Waterberg, the largest district in the Transvaal, occupies the north-west corner of the province. Through its midlands run the southern parts of the Limpopo Highlands under different names, the chief being the Zand River Bergen, Hoek Bergen, Hanglip Bergen, and Rooi Bergen. Amongst those mountains are wide grassy uplands. Towards the south are the Bads Bergen. Northwards from the Highlands, the vast sea of the Lower Bush Veld sinks away down into the Limpopo valley. The south is covered by part of the Upper Bush Veld, with the Springbok Flats in the south-east corner. The slopes of the Highlands are broken by streams into countless kopjes and kloofs, and many large rivers flow northwards to the Limpopo.

Many fertile stretches of land are to be found in this district. Good crops of wheat, maize, potatoes, and beans are raised. Cotton and tobacco, oranges and naartjes are grown with success. Also, this is becoming a great cattle country. Everywhere, on grassy uplands, deep kloofs, and boundless bush veld, cattle grow sleek and fat.

Nylstroom and Potgietersrust, on the Pretoria-Messina railway line, are the chief towns. The farms around grow



Mr. H. Exton.

Zoutpansberg

oranges largely, and a good supply of timber is always to be had. At Warm Baths, there is a hot spring which is thought to be of some value in curing rheumatism. The southern parts of the district are very rich in tin, coal, iron, and clay, and there is plenty of native labour.

The Zoutpansberg district occupies the northern part of the Transvaal, and it is bounded by part of the great curve of the Limpopo River, which separates it from Rhodesia. On its eastern side, it is cut off from Portuguese country by the Lebombo Mountains. On its south is Pietersburg district; on its west Waterberg.

The Zoutpansbergen form the northern end of the Limpopo Highlands, and they occupy much of the south and centre of the district. Between the mountains and the Limpopo River lies the Lower Bush Veld. The west and centre of this low-lying belt are very sandy; while, in the eastern parts, malarial fever is always a danger to settlers. Much of this district is well covered with such timber as yellow-wood and mahogany, and it is also the home of the mighty baobab. On the mountain slopes there is good pasture for cattle; and maize, Kaffir corn, tobacco, oranges, bananas, pineapples, paw-paws, and other kinds of fruit all grow well. Louis Trichard, the chief town, is named after the great Trek leader; and copper is mined at Messina close to the Limpopo.

The Pietersburg district lies to the south of the Zoutpansberg; and, on the east, it is separated from Portuguese East Africa by the Lebombo Mountains. Here the Limpopo Highlands meet the Drakensbergen, and there are also stretches of grassy uplands and bushy low veld. The central highland region is a land of richness and beauty, the glory of Pietersburg being the Woodbush Mountain and the country around it, where towering heights look out over low

veld. Nature has clothed all this region of lofty berg and moist valley in a wealth of living green. Trees and bush deck the slopes, and a hundred blooms colour the fields and roadsides. Every mountain sends its streams tumbling into deep valleys, where they wind along amongst tall tree-ferns. In the dense forests one finds "fairy glens and leafy caverns";



Baobob Tree

Miss F. Walker.

and, everywhere in the greenwood, streams babble and laugh in hidden channels. Cattle range the slopes and fatten on the mountain grass. The deep wooded kloofs are full of bush-buck, wild pig, and monkeys. The silent leopard slinks through the bush and the eagle sails aloft, each on the look-out for good hunting.

Between the Woodbush Mountain and the Wolkberg lies Haenertsburg, past which runs the beautiful Broederstroom. Not far off is Magoba's Kloof, one of the finest in South

Africa, which leads steeply down by a winding road to Tzaneen. This lovely green ribbon of country, lying below the mountains, is a wonderland of fertility, where warmth and mists wake to life a great richness of plant life. Here are grown cotton, tobacco, mealies, monkey nuts, oranges, custard apples, bananas, paw-paws, and guavas. At Duivel's Kloof there is a factory where monkey-nuts are made into butter, oil, and various foods.

To the north are the Spelonken, a broken country of valleys and steep rocky mountains covered with thorn bush and good grass. Cattle thrive here, and in the valleys great crops of potatoes are grown. The Woodbush region and the Spelonken cradle the head-waters of the Rivers Koodoo, Middle Letaba, and Great Letaba, feeders of the Limpopo. To the south-west, Pietersburg stands on a broad upland somewhat like the High Veld. It is the largest town in the northern Transvaal, and is a busy trading centre. To the east of green Tzaneen are drier stretches of low country, where Leydsdorp is a small farming centre.

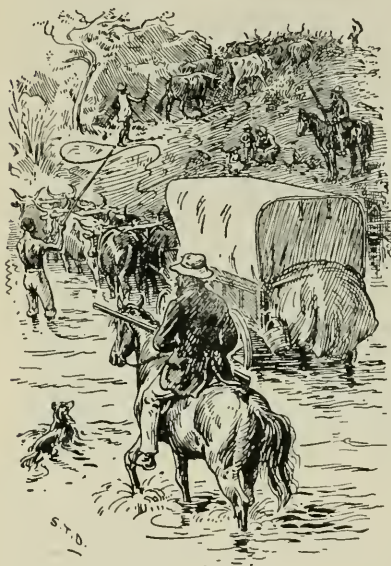
The Transvaal Game Reserve

In the north-east of the Transvaal, and bordering on Portuguese East Africa, there is a Game Reserve about 200 miles long, and from 40 to 60 miles broad. It occupies the eastern side of each of the districts Zoutpansberg, Pietersburg, and Lydenburg, and runs from the Pafuri River southwards to the Crocodile. Here many kinds of wild animals are saved from being killed out entirely by hunters. The reserve contains elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes, zebras, ostriches, and many kinds of antelopes.

LOOKING BACKWARDS

Before the Great Trek, the vast inland plains were unknown except to a few hunters. In the year 1836, the Voortrekkers went forth to make for themselves new homes across the Orange and the Vaal Rivers. But it was long before

they slept beneath a roof again. Wagons were their only homes for months, and in some cases years. They were their shelter from summer heat and winter winds, and their fortress in time of danger. From the dry Karroo, they passed over the great northern plains of the Cape, and crossed the Orange River. The new land seemed a pleasant place. Plenty of game was to be had for the shooting, and good pasture for their cattle.



Boers Trekking

But Moselekatze began to attack hunting-parties and small bands of trekkers. Often it happened that the war-cries of the savage broke the stillness of the dawn. Then the Dutch fought with all the courage of their race, and often drove off their fierce enemies. But too often it happened that the waves of savages could not be driven back. Then,

only when powder and shot were finished and the little laager was broken; only when the last man went down under a score of flashing red assegais; only then was the fight over. And all that was left to mark the spot in after years was a broken wagon on a lonely plain.

Louis Trichardt with his party tried to find a way to Natal round the northern end of Drakensberg. But, in the Zoutpansberg and the low veld, disease attacked man and beast, and only a few trekkers reached Delagoa Bay after great suffering.

Moselekatze's impis made a desperate attack on Sarel Cillier's camp near the Vet River; but here the Boers gained their first great victory over the savages and named the place Vechtkop. Hendrik Potgieter then led a force against Moselekatze's great kraal at Mosega; and the Zulu warriors fled, the Boers getting back many cattle and wagons they had lost. Also they drove the Zulus across the Limpopo to their present home in Matabeleland. Potgieter with his small force of Boers was able to break and beat back a great tribe of warriors, and in doing so he showed himself to be a very gallant leader. Potchefstroom, the oldest town in the Transvaal, was rightly named after him.

Then the Boers settled down in their new homes. At first they lived mainly by hunting. Then their flocks and herds grew larger, and they became graziers. Next they became grain farmers. Later, the finding of diamonds and gold brought many British and other Europeans to the High Veld. So now there are farms and mines where once countless wild animals roamed.

OUR INDUSTRIES—EARLY DAYS

In the early days at the Cape cattle-farming was the chief occupation of the settlers. Also fruit and vegetables were grown to supply the needs of visiting ships, and the making of wine and brandy was carried on with success. Home industries were a necessity, and clothes, shoes, furniture, harness, and wagons were made on the farms or in the villages. Then wool, mohair, and ostrich feathers began to be exported. Later, the year 1863 saw the beginning of mining in South Africa at the copper-field of Namaqualand, and about the same time the country was sending overseas dried fish and fruit, wine, and brandy.

By the year 1870 diamond-mining was in full swing, and crowds flocked to the "diamond fields". These were in a barren region, and so all food and mining material had to be brought from the coast. Large profits were thus to be made by carrying goods in ox-wagons to Kimberley, and many men gave up farming and became busy in this new "transport" industry. Later on, mining became more important with the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, first in the Lydenburg district, then at Barberton, and finally, in the year 1886, on the Witwatersrand. After this, farmers as well as miners began to prosper; and railways were pushed forward into the country.

Riches of the Land

Except in a few favoured places South Africa as a country is best suited on the whole for stock-farming. The winter-rain region of the Cape is one of the favoured parts; and there the farmers grow more wheat, oats, barley, and rye than

in any other part of the country. Also the fruit-farms produce excellent grapes, pears, peaches, apples, and figs; and the wine, vinegar, and dried-fruit industries employ many people. Another favoured region is the coastal belt of Natal, where the farmer raises sugar, tea, sisal fibre, cotton, sweet potatoes, tobacco, mealies, Kaffir corn, and many kinds of fruit, such as bananas, pineapples, paw-paws, mangoes, oranges, naartjes, and avocado pears. Leaving out tea, we may say that the same products are harvested by the Bush Veld farmers of the Transvaal. In the grass-land region of summer rains, the farmer adds to the food-supply of the world by reaping large crops of maize, and by raising cattle and sheep. From the dry lands, large supplies of wool and mohair are sent to the world's markets. More people, white and native, are employed in farming than in any other kind of work in this country.

Wealth of the Mines

The finding of gold and diamonds made the Veld a region of great value, and has brought many miners into the country. Now South Africa has the most productive gold-field and the largest diamond-mines in the world. These employ thousands of workers. Johannesburg and Kimberley have arisen from these industries. The gold-fields of Rhodesia and the diamond-mines of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State also require much labour. So South Africa can supply, in gold and diamonds, a great part of the world's needs.

Coal-mining also gives employment to very many people, and the mines of the Transvaal, Natal, Orange Free State, and Rhodesia produce good coal, without which our many industries could not be carried on. The Cape Province is



A Portion of the Reef

S. A. Railways Pub. Dept.

not so lucky as these others, for its coal is not of great value. Every year, King Coal needs more and more servants. Other workers seek wealth below the ground by mining copper, lead, tin, iron, silver, and other minerals. The finer kinds of work on the mines need a large amount of skilled white labour, and the natives are of great value in doing the rougher work.

The Harvest of the Sea

As they came from a land where so many people are employed in the fishing industry, it was only natural that some of the early Dutch settlers should have taken to fishing as a means of earning a living; but Van Riebeeck told them they were not to "waste their time fishing"; so for many years there was no fishing industry. Later, however, some of the freed Malay slaves were allowed to engage in fishing, which thus in time came to be thought of as work only fit for the coloured man. Then, about thirty years ago, a number of Italian fishermen came to the Cape and their efforts met with success. Now whites of different nations reap the harvest of the seas, and many find work in the fish-curing and preserving works between Saldanha Bay and East London. Soles, silver-fish, stumpnose, Cape salmon, and stockfish are all good for food; and some day we may send them frozen to Europe, to help to feed the people there. The whale is still hunted in our seas, and a few whaling stations produce oil and manure. Also some fish, such as the dog-fish, are turned into valuable food for poultry and stock.

Other Industries

A large group of industries provides food, drink, and tobacco. Bacon and ham factories help the farmer who turns

his grain into pork; and the dairy farmer sends his milk to creameries to be made into butter and cheese. Preserved fish, sausages and other kinds of preserved meats, bread and biscuits, flour and other mill products, canned and dried fruits, pickles and sauces, vinegar and salt, coffee and tea, and sugar—all these are made in this country from South African products. Also our smokers enjoy South African tobacco, and housewives can use South African baking-powder, condensed milk, lard, oil, monkey-nut butter, and macaroni. And boys and girls can enjoy the jams and jellies, the sweets and golden syrup made in this country.

Next after this group comes metal-working of all kinds. Many men are employed as blacksmiths and plumbers. Others are busy making farming implements, cooking utensils, enamel goods, tanks, and troughs. Another group has to do with the making of soap and candles, oils and greases, paints and varnishes, sheep and cattle dips, cattle and poultry foods, starch and soda, tar, glue, and many other things.

South Africa has also made a start with the making of woven goods and clothing. There are woollen factories where blankets are made, and there are many clothing factories. Boots and shoes are made in South Africa, and, of course, many people are employed in building houses, sawing timber, and making wagons and furniture. With stores of lime and clay in certain places, there are factories for the making of cement, drain-pipes, bricks, tiles, and crockery. We now turn our own fibres into ropes and cordage, bags and sacks, and we make toys and slate pencils too. But this long list still leaves out many of the occupations of the people of South Africa.



Wool Market

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WHAT WE BUY AND SELL

Although many industries are carried on in this country, we do not yet make all the things we need; and so we must buy from other lands. Much of our clothing comes from abroad, and the need for goods of this kind is growing.

Your frocks and shirts have been made from cotton woven in Britain and India; and from Britain we buy the most of our blankets, hose, jerseys, and other woollen goods. Britain and France send us gloves and silk; but we buy gloves from Italy too, and silk from Japan. Also Britain supplies us with collars, sheets, table-cloths, and many other things made of linen. Our watches mostly have been made at Geneva, in Switzerland, and our clocks in the United States and Germany. Boots and shoes are made in South Africa, but we also buy footwear from Britain and the United States. Italy sells us most of the beads beloved by our natives, although we get some from France and Japan as well.

If our morning coffee was not grown in Natal, then it most likely came from Brazil. The South African pig may have supplied our breakfast bacon and ham; but we buy a large amount from Australia, which also sells us more macaroni, cheese and condensed milk, jams and jellies, currants and raisins than any other country. The rice we eat has been grown in the moist valleys of Further India or China. Our table salt and mustard have come from Britain, and our pepper from the land of the Malays. Of course, if we wish to use South African salt, we can do so.

South African wheat supplies us with a certain amount of flour, but not with enough for our needs, and much of our

bread is made therefore from wheat grown in Australia and Canada. The corn-flour, used in making our milk-puddings, comes from the United States of America, though we ourselves are now beginning to make corn-flour. We get tinned fish from Britain, Norway, and North America, almonds from Spain, and coco-nuts mostly from Zanzibar.

Japan sells us our "china" goods, and Britain our earthenware. Our spoons, forks, and knives are bought from Britain, which also supplies us with most of our carpets and rugs. We get most of our pianos from Germany; and, although we have now begun to make toys for our small boys and girls, we still buy a lot from Britain and Japan.

Our farmers get dairy utensils from Sweden, and ploughs from Canada and Britain. The machinery used in our mines nearly all comes from Britain. America supplies us with most of our motor-cars. Copper goods and electrical material are got from Britain. When you look at a newspaper, you should remember that the paper, or "newsprint" as it is called, has been made from wood grown in Canada or Sweden. The drugs we take when sick were most likely bought from Britain. The pine-wood of our floors and ceilings grew at one time in the forests of Sweden, Finland, or North America. Most of the teak of which our furniture is made comes from India, and the oak from the United States of America.

Most of the things we produce are sold to the people of Britain, who take our wattle bark for tanning, and take also our copper ore, raw cotton, diamonds, ostrich feathers, cheese, jams and jellies, raisins, oranges, peaches, pears, frozen meat, sugar, gold, hides, and skins. Britain and Germany buy our mealies, and our wool is sold to Britain, the United States of America, and Japan.

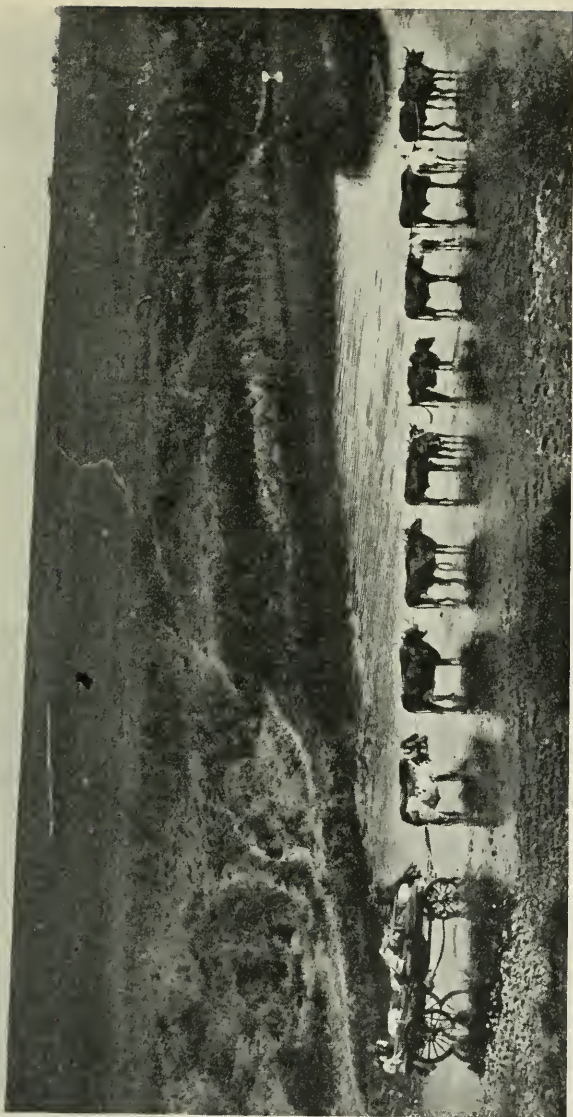
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ROADS BY LAND AND SEA

Most of the things we now require are not to be got near our homes; nor are we usually able to sell all our products to near neighbours. So buying and selling cannot be carried on without moving the goods from place to place. To make this easy, roads are needed. In the early days, trade in this country was carried on by ox-wagons over ordinary roads, most of which were far from good. In certain parts, travellers and letters were carried by mail-coaches. Now that motor-cars are coming into common use, good roads have been made in places; but the usual "veld" road is still only a well-beaten track, often with deep holes and ruts. But the greatest help to trade lies in our railways.

Look at the railway map, and try to follow the chief lines. From Cape Town, the great central line runs northwards through the heart of the country to the northern boundary of Rhodesia, over which it crosses into the Congo Free State. On the way, it passes through the dry Karroo, and strikes northwards over the Orange River, and on past Kimberley, skirting the western boundaries of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, and running between the grassy plains of the High Veld, and the great "thirst lands" of the Kalahari Desert. Then it runs on through the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia.

Here it branches. One part turns to the north-west, crossing the Zambezi River at the Victoria Falls and going on in a north-easterly direction until it passes over the Congo-Zambezi divide into Belgian country. The other part from Bulawayo runs north-east to Salisbury, and then turns



S. A. Rathbun's Pub. Dept.

The Ox Wagon

seawards through Portuguese East Africa, ending at Beira, which has thus become the port of Southern Rhodesia.

From Port Elizabeth and East London two lines travel through the eastern Cape districts, meeting at Springfontein in the Orange Free State. A second line from Port Elizabeth curves widely to the west, passing through the Karroo and Graaf-Reinet, and bending northwards to join the other line at Rosmead. The East London-Springfontein line throws off easterly branches to Umtata, Maclear, New England, and Zastron. From Springfontein the main line goes northwards through Bloemfontein and Kroonstad to Vereeniging. Here it branches into two parts. One of these passes through Johannesburg, and meets the other at Germiston. The line then continues northwards through Pretoria to Messina.

This second great line is joined up with that from Cape Town to Bulawayo by cross branches between Nauwpoort and De Aar, Hamilton (near Bloemfontein) and Kimberley, Kroonstad and Eastleigh (near Klerksdorp), Johannesburg and Fourteen Streams by way of Potchefstroom, and Johannesburg and Mafeking by way of Zeerust.

From the port of Durban, lines run along the coast, one northwards to Somkele in Zululand, and the other southwards to Port Shepstone. But the main line in Natal goes from Durban in a north-westerly direction through Pietermaritzburg to Ladysmith. Here it divides. One branch climbs up to the High Veld and enters the Orange Free State by way of Van Reenan's Pass. Thence it goes westwards through Harrismith and Bethlehem, and joins the second great line at Kroonstad. The other branch from Ladysmith passes northwards through Glencoe and Newcastle, and enters the Transvaal by Laing's Nek, whence it turns to the north-west and runs on over the High Veld to Johannesburg. From Pietermaritzburg branch lines run north and south,

and from Glencoe a branch makes a great bend eastwards and northwards, joining up with the Transvaal railways and passing on through Piet Retief, Ermelo, and Carolina to meet the Pretoria-Delagoa line at Machadodorp.

Delagoa Bay is a gateway for much of the overseas trade of the Transvaal. From Lourenço Marques a line goes to the north-west, entering the Transvaal at Komati Poort, and then passing westwards through the Middelburg coal-fields. At Witbank it divides into two parts, one going to Pretoria, and the other to Johannesburg. From Komati Poort a branch passes north-west through Tzaneen to join the Pretoria-Messina line at Zoekmakaar.

In the Cape Province many important branch lines strike off from the Cape-Bulawayo line. From Worcester in the south-west Cape region, a branch goes down the Breede River valley and turns eastwards, passing close to Mossel Bay and at George turning northwards over the mountains to Oudtshoorn. Thence it travels through the Karroo to join the Port Elizabeth-Graaf Reinet line. Not far from Cape Town, another branch turns off northwards along the coastal belt. It passes through Malmesbury and Piquetberg; and at present comes to a stop at Klaver on the north side of the Olifants River. From Hutchinson, a branch goes to the west through the dry lands and ends at Calvinia.

At De Aar a branch is thrown off to the north-west. It passes through Prieska, crosses the Orange River at Upington, and enters South-West Africa at its south-east corner. Then it stretches northwards through the middle of the country, by way of Seeheim, Windhoek, and Karibib, and comes to an end, one branch at Tsumeb and the other at Grootfontein. It is joined by two lines, one from Angra Pequena and the other from Swakopmund.

The number of branch lines will become greater as our

industries grow. But however useful railways may become, we must not forget the great work done in this country in the early days by the pioneers with their ox-wagons.

Our harbours, of course, play a great part in our overseas trade. From Europe, North America, South America, Australia, and India steamers sail regularly to South African ports, following definite sea-roads. In Europe the chief ports for South African trade are Southampton and London in England, and Rotterdam in Holland. The steamers travel along the Atlantic Ocean and call at Madeira and other islands. But another sea-road from South Africa to Europe lies up the Indian Ocean, close to the east coast of Africa, the steamers calling at Zanzibar, Mombasa, and other places. Then the road turns into the long, narrow Red Sea, passing through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea, and thence into the Atlantic.

Canada and the United States of America send their ships across the Atlantic from Montreal and New York, and Canada at present also has a service of steamers between Vancouver and South African ports across the Pacific, by way of India. Our sea traffic with South America crosses the South Atlantic between Cape Town and Buenos Ayres and other ports. Ships sailing between South Africa and Australia follow an east-west road straight across the southern end of the Indian Ocean, and they join up Cape Town and Durban with Melbourne and other ports in Australia. Durban and Delagoa Bay carry on most of the traffic with India across the Indian Ocean.

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